WALSALL
CHRONICLE

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Fun flowing on

Thousands turn out for event in 12th year

See Page 4

Star honoured

Noddy receives his freedom accolade

See Page 6

Ellie in action

Swimmer Simmonds is fourth at international

See Page 43

BOSS FINED ON GAS DANGERS

Report by Laura Blyth

SOMEONE could have been killed or seriously injured as a result of a firm and its Walsall-based owner carrying out illegal gas work at businesses across the country, the Health and Safety executive have said.

Kaysor Ahmed from Walsall, the managing director of Sylhet Welding UK Ltd, was found to have carried out work while not being Gas Safe registered. He also employed others who were not registered.

At Leicester Magistrates' Court, Ahmed of Wednesbury Road, pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 3(3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

He was fined £6,600 and ordered to pay costs of £2,028. He was also banned from being a company director for two years.

Sylhet Welding UK Ltd of Oxford Street, Bilston, pleaded guilty to breaching regulations 3(2) and 3(3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, and was fined £6,600 and ordered to pay costs of £1,118. The hearing was told an investigation by the HSE found a variety of gas work had been carried out by Sylhet, which specialised in the manufacture and supply of industrial catering equipment, such as cooking ranges.

Warned

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Graham Tompkins said: "It is only a matter of luck that no-one has been killed or seriously injured as a result of the illegal gas work carried out by this company.

"In their various incarnations, they were warned on numerous occasions they must be Gas Safe registered in order to work with gas and gas appliances, but this was never adhered to. Work was carried out in restaurants across the Midlands and south of England.

"Neither Mr Ahmed nor his company was Gas Safe registered so were not qualified or competent to undertake this work. In some cases the installations were left in appalling conditions that put the restaurant staff and customers at real risk of possible fire or explosion." The court was told Ahmed's firm had done work at the Rickshaw and Bengal Spice restaurants both in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, on February 2, 2012.

Cinema's expansion scheme is approved

A MULTI-million pound cinema development for Walsall town centre will be expanded to include 142 extra seats – with work starting within two months.

Vue Cinema, in Littleton Street, will have 1,281 seats – up from 1,139, after plans were backed by councillors.

The nine-screen Vue cinema is part of the development of the Littleton Centre and will create more than 200 jobs.

The extra seats will be spread across all of the auditoriums, while the height of the building is being increased by 4ft. And last week's Walsall Council planning committee also backed proposals to increase the size of another planned cinema – run by Light Cinemas – at the nearby Waterfront by 97 sq m.

Chairman Councillor Garry Perry said he was aware there were questions over whether the town could sustain two cinemas – but he hailed the developments as positive for the future.

He said: "In terms of planning there is no reason to take any other decision than approving them." Developer Cordwell is behind the £12 million plans for the Littleton Centre.

There were concerns over parking, buta report to the planning committee states the potential for extra traffic had been considered.

Tributes as crime chief dies at 59

THE West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has died suddenly at the age of 59. Mr Jones was the first to hold the position after it was created in 2012. He was in charge of setting the force budget and steering it through difficult times as it managed multi-million pound funding cuts.

Bob Jones

Tributes flooded in for Mr Jones, who died in his sleep on Monday night.

Among those to pay their respects was former home secretary Jacqui Smith added: "Such sad and shocking news about Bob Jones. The West Midlands and policing are far poorer without him."

During his time as the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner he backed a decision to end the forced retirement of long serving police officers and oversaw the recruitment of new ones. Mr Jones had also spent many years on the former West Midlands Police Authority – which was abolished to create the post of PCC – and was awarded a CBE for his services to policing in 2010.

Mission to find moths

WILDLIFE fans are being invited to join a moth walk, tomorrow, as part of a national celebration.

There will be a free moth trapping session at Rough Wood Local Nature Reserve, in Willenhall.

The event is to mark National Moth Night and runs from 9pm to midnight at the site, in Hunts Lane, Short Heath. Places are free but booking is a must on 01922 654220 or via www.walsall-wildlife.eventbrite.co.uk

Trio in carnival countdown

Queen, Lucy Shepherd, right, with princess, Naomi Morrall, left, and rosebud, Maisy Walton

BLOXWICH carnival Queen Lucy Shepherd and her helpers were on the countdown trail to the big event at the weekend, as they appeared at the Party in the Park.

The 18-year-old, flanked by princess Naomi Morrall and rosebud Maisey Walton, met residents and wellwishers at their first official outing as carnival ambassadors, drumming up support and excitement for the summer extravaganza on August 2.

Lucy, a sixth former at Great Wyrley High School, impressed the judges at the selection day held earlier this year.

"It's brilliant being the queen. I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be picked by the panel so it was a big shock. It's the first time I'd ever entered," she said.

Carnival princess Naomi, aged 12, a Walsall Academy pupil, is a member of the Forest Arts Centre Choir. Rosebud Maisey, aged, 10, of Elmore Green Primary School, is an aspiring dancer and trains with tutor Ellie Spears at the town's leisure centre.

In the run up to the big show at King George V playing fields, in Stafford Road, Lucy and the team will lend a hand at the annual Bloxwich Senior Citizen Party on July 17.

Relaunch of town market in pipeline

PRIVATE operators are being sought to relaunch Darlaston Market under regeneration plans.

Walsall Council is looking to attract a market provider to run stalls after the previous pitch was scrapped under cost cutting measures. Expression of interest letters have been sent out and it could go out to tender next month.

The previous 40-year-old council-run market in King Street and High Street was axed in 2011 to save up to £60,000 over three years.

The event was held every Friday and Saturday and the Darlaston Town Centre Partnership is seeking for an event to return.

Firm details of how the market would operate are still to be decided, but council chiefs have confirmed it is being pursued.

Regeneration boss, councillor Adrian Andrew, said: "We are currently sending expressions of interest letters to market providers.

"We are unable to confirm specific details of what the market would look like at this early stage."

Stuart Chapman, chairman of the Darlaston Town Centre Partnership, said he would like to see a bric-a-brac element included.

"It is about bringing something back for the local people. Darlaston needs a market," he said.

Bridge work road to open

WORK on a bridge being rebuilt as part of the electrification of the Chase Line – hit by numerous delays – will finish this weekend.

Network Rail closed Broad Lane in Bloxwich in November so it could carry out the £3million bridge project. The re-opening was put off several times but it finally reopened last week.

But drivers have still faced delays as temporary traffic lights were set up so safety barriers could be installed on the bridge.

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CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	16
Village Page	20
TV Listings	22
Puzzle Page	25
Property	26
Motoring	36
Classified	37
Sport	43-44

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Arsonist was trying to wake daughter

A DRUNK grandmother started a potentially 'catastrophic' fire outside her daughter's flat to wake her after she was locked out.

Julie Battisson's daughter and granddaughter were inside at the time, a court heard. She was locked out on February 2 following a day out drinking, and after banging on the door with no reply she set a fire to try to set off an alarm. Battisson was jailed for 18 months for arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

During the hearing prosecuting barrister Miss Cathlyn Orchard said Battisson had been out watching a Six Nations rugby match, and had drunk 10 pints of Speckled Hen beer. She was living with her 19-year-old daughter and young child at a first-floor flat in Broad Lane, Shelfield, and while out received a message telling her not to go there if she was drunk.

Despite this, she returned and tried banging on the door and shouting. Miss Orchard said: "Her neighbour, who was at home with her mother-in-law and two children, awoke. She could smell smoke in the hallway, went out onto the landing and could see smoke. She saw the defendant standing there and throwing things out of the window."

The court was told that Battisson, from Marklew Close in Walsall Wood, had set fire to some of the clothes, but when she realised what she had done began to throw them out of the window.

Defending barrister Mr Devon Small said: "In her interview she said she had no intention whatsoever to cause any harm to anyone inside the building, and only meant to wake up her daughter."

Rubbish is dumped near fly-tipping sign

by Craig Hughes

BRAZEN fly-tippers have dumped piles of rubbish on land in Walsall – just yards from a sign warning of prosecution action if caught.

A mattress, paint buckets and black carrier bags have all been dropped on land off Slacky Lane, between Goscote and Pelsall.

The area has proved a fly-tipping hotspot over a number of years and Walsall Council introduced signs to warn that surveillance would be used to monitor the area.

Bollards have also been put in place but it has failed to deter the culprits who have dumped waste again on the land, owned by Severn Trent Water, and has been left there for around a week-and-a-half.

The water company has said the clear-up of the sewage treatment works site is due to be completed by the end of the week.

Pelsall councillor Marco Longhi said he had received complaints for villagers who have seen the unsightly pile of waste build up. "It is a well-established hotspot," he said.

Permanent

"This is probably the most fly-tipped spot in the whole of Walsall, if not the most it is in the top three.

"We need to do something about enforcement, moreover something about a permanent solution. We need to make it more difficult for fly-tippers."

The council has mobile cameras which can be deployed across the borough and also launched a reward scheme to encourage information and lead to convictions.

It was revealed the cost of dealing with all fly-tipping in Walsall was around £140,000 in the last financial year.

There were almost 400 fridges dumped between last June and September.

Severn Trent Water spokesman Grace Marren said: "We have experienced fly-tipping a few times at our sewage treatment works.

A view of the rubbish which has been dropped and left in a pile with the sign in the background

The Walsall Council sign which warns of fly-tipping surveillance being carried out at the site

"We have had bollards up to prevent it from happening but unfortunately it has happened again. We are arranging to have it cleared by Friday morning.

"It is frustrating for us but obviously we will work hard to prevent it from happening in the future. We are working closely with Walsall Council." Councillor Chris Towe, portfolio holder for environment and public protection at the council, added: "As this land is partially owned by Severn Trent we are liaising with them to clear the site.

"We hope to work with them and any other interested parties to discuss ways to clamp down on fly tipping in this area.

"Fly tipping is a criminal offence – anyone who can provide evidence that leads to the successful prosecution of a fly-tipper can earn a £100 reward."

Details of boy racer move are finalised

THE final details of an injunction aimed at stopping car cruising in the streets of the Black Country car are being drawn up.

All four Black Country councils are teaming up to apply to the High Court for an injunction which could see people who participate in or watch car cruising events jailed for up to two years.

Moxley, in Walsall, has suffered from boy racers meeting on streets and car parks in the area at night and speeding around the streets.

Gurdip Thandi, spokesman for Wolverhampton City Council, said the local authority along with Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall were all finalising the details of an application to the High Court.

"If granted, the councils would have the power to take anyone suspected of participating in car cruising or spectating at such events back to court and anyone found in breach of the injunction would be liable to fines or up to two years' imprisonment," he said.

An injunction has already been brought into force in Cannock, near to Orbital and Linkway retail parks, to tackle the problem of boy racers.

Weekly walks around parks

A SERIES of summer walks are being held at parks in Walsall with more participants urged to join the weekly groups.

Strolls take place at Walsall Arboretum every Thursday and Willenhall Memorial Park until the middle of August.

They are organised by Walsall Council's sport and leisure development services team and cover two to three miles.

For the Thursday walk meet at the Centre Green at 7pm and for the Willenhall walk meet at the car park at the same time.

Bin lorry on fire

A BIN lorry caught fire in Bloxwich. It pulled up to Bloxwich Fire Station in High Street at around 7.45am last Tuesday, with flames and plumes of smoke coming from the back of the truck. It took firefighters half-an-hour to put out the flames.

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Bus firm is told to pay £185k on death

A BUS company has been fined £150,000 for failing to ensure the safety of its workers after a mechanic died when he was crushed between two vehicles.

Lee Baker never regained consciousness following the accident at National Express West Midlands depot in Carl Street, Walsall. The 24 year-old, of Churchill Road, Bentley, had been working the night shift and was trying to push a double decker bus along with colleague Simon Clarke.

It rolled forward and crushed him against another bus on October 22, 2011. Mr Baker, who has a daughter Katie, now aged three, suffered brain damage and died almost four months later at Walsall Manor Hospital.

West Midlands Travel admitted not ensuring the safety of its workers by failing to ensure they were supervised adequately; and failing to perform a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to its workers, during the movement of vehicles not under their own power.

The firm was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court where they were fined £150,000 and told to pay just over £35,000 in costs. National Express West Midlands is the trading name of West Midlands Travel Lim-

Service is commended

A SOCIAL homes' service that has helped to transform the lives of victims and offenders has scooped a national award for its efforts.

Walsall Housing Group won the highly-commended prize at the National Housing Federation's Community Impact Awards in London.

WHG's Positive Support Service which is based on the principle that perpetrators are often victims themselves.

The overall winner was London's Peabody for Staying Safe project which tackles crime and gang culture.

Street hold-ups

MOTORISTS will face hold-ups during road restrictions at the weekend. Temporary traffic lights will be in place along High Street, Brownhills, at the junction of Ogley Road, on July 6.

This is for duct repairs and restrictions will operate from 8am to 6pm.

World away, but pupils enjoy their own cup

One youngster shows his skills on the ball

DESPITE the disappointing performances of England in Brazil, one group of Walsall school youngsters enjoyed their own version of World Cup fever.

On Friday June 20, Rivers Primary Academy, of Mersey Road, Blakenall and Goldsmith Primary Academy, of Goldsmith Road, Harden, joined forces and held their own World Cup tournament.

The weather proved to be perfect for the event, as the sun beat down all afternoon, a spokesman said: "It was a very Brazilian day."

The children were split into different mixed year group teams. The games were refereed by sixth form sports leaders from Windsor High School.

The spokesman added: "They performed brilliantly by encouraging the children and ensured the rules were adhered to. The children played football competitively but in the right spirit of the game. Win or lose, they ended the day with big smiles on their faces.

"The three schools are part of the Windsor Academy Trust (WAT). This was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to work together for the benefit of all the children."

The teams in action as the sunshine gleams

Meningitis boy was not diagnosed in time, claim

A SCHOOLBOY died of meningitis on his 13th birthday after a hospital gave him paracetamol instead of antibiotics, an inquest heard.

Talented Chasetown footballer Thomas Smith went to hospital with six tell-tale signs of meningitis including a headache and a stiff neck while on holiday in Wales. The inquest heard a doctor gave him painkillers and it was another four hours before he was given antibiotics.

Signs – Thomas Smith

Thomas, a pupil at Kingsmead School in Hednesford, never recovered from the brain infection. Medical experts told the inquest on Monday, he should have had 'immediate intervention'.

Consultant paediatrician Dr Rim Al-Samsam said: "It was an emergency which should have been treated with antibiotics without delay."

Thomas – known as Ronnie to his friends because of his Cristiano Ronaldo-style football skills – had travelled from his Hednesford home to South Wales for a family break when he complained of a headache.

Parents Andrew and Emma took him to an out-of-hours GP who referred him to Prince Charles Hospital, in Merthyr Tydfil.

Hospital doctor Kwong-Tou Yip gave him paracetamol while they carried out tests. But the inquest heard he was suffering from pneumococcal meningitis.

Dr Yip told a hearing in Cardiff: "With hindsight I should have started him on antibiotics a lot sooner."

Thomas was correctly diagnosed only after he was seen by a senior paediatrician four hours after being admitted. He had a seizure minutes later and was taken to the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff but never recovered and died in May last year.

The hearing continues.

Organ firm at launch

THE makers of an historic town hall pipe organ will be the guests at the official launch of an appeal to raise £100,000 to repair it, next Thursday.

Campaigners have launched a drive to revamp the 111-year-old instrument at Darlaston Town Hall to safeguard the venue's musical heritage.

The instrument was built by the renowned organ maker James J Binns of Leeds at its Bramley Organ Works. Representatives from the company will be among the guests at the event.

Appeal organiser Darlaston South's Councillor Doug James said he hoped to attract a celebrity performer to the launch.

Oil tank sparks blaze at former factory

The scene of the fire at a disused oil tanker in Aldridge, courtesy of the West Midlands Fire Service

AN investigation has started into the cause of a blaze at a former car parts factory which saw 30 firefighters tackle the flames. Thick plumes of smoke came from an old oil tank at the former GKN building in Middlemore Lane, in Aldridge which could be seen as far away as the A5.

Firefighters from Aldridge, Walsall and Sutton Coldfield were called to the landmark site to tackle the 10-metre high blaze, which broke out at around 11.20am on Monday.

Simon Barry, commander for the Black Country North, said the fire had broken out in an old storage tank, which may have had some leftover oil in it. "The crews have done great work scaling down the fire and putting it out. Their actions have kept it contained and prevented it from spreading any further." A hydraulic platform was used to tackle the fire and the site was cordoned off for two hours.

Drivers faced delays as Middlemore Lane and Dumblederry Avenue were both cordoned off. It caused traffic to build up around the industrial estate. Paramedics also attended, but no injuries were reported and businesses did not need to be evacuated.

The blaze was put out just after 1pm and both cordons were lifted, while the six fire engines remained on scene to clean up. The former GKN factory which is 347,125 sq ft, was once occupied by more than 200 workers. It was based in the town for more than 50 years before closing in 2010.

NEWS in brief

Litter drama set for school stage

PUPILS at a senior school will play host to an award-winning play on the problems of litter.

Year seven and eight groups from Walsall's Joseph Leckie Academy will see the educational work Bin It, tomorrow, Friday.

The drama aims to show that dropping litter is a bad habit and challenges students to change their behaviour.

The school based in Walstead Road West is among five in the region to be included in the Bin It tour.

Group in call over eyesores

CALLS have been made for long-term eyesore sites to be developed and transformed in Willenhall.

Liberal Democrats leader Ian Shires said it is hoped an application for the Meadow House, Stroud Avenue, will be submitted in the near future.

Councillor Shires said: "Other vacant sites, the former Cavalcade pub site opposite in Stroud Avenue and the former Brown Jug pub site, both in private ownership are also long standing eyesores."

Prizes on offer as shop opens

A PRIZE draw will be among the attractions when Walsall Borough Cats' Protection opens a new shop, tomorrow.

Shoppers are invited to call in to the premises, in Croft Parade, in Aldridge, on Friday at 10.30am. Attractions include a prize draw.

Fundraiser Val Turner said: "We've had a lot of really nice things that have been donated."

Church in food bank opening

A NEW food bank will open at a church on August 30. Emergency food parcels will be handed out at Pelsall Methodist Church.

Volunteers will be trained to work with vulnerable people and to signpost them to various agencies to access help. For details, call 01722 580180 or email enquiries@trusselltrust.org

Brass in church

PHOENIX Brass Band will be performing at a Walsall church next week. All Saints' Church, in Walsall Road, Darlaston, will play host to the group on July 12. Tickets at £10 are available from the church.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OVER the years, in order to make football safer, boots have become lighter and the old rock-hard leather ball has been outlawed. Is it time to consider rubber teeth?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THE term rUK ("rest of the United Kingdom") is already being used in Scotland to describe England and Wales if Scotland votes for independence in September's referendum. A similar abbreviation based on "former United Kingdom" has been rejected as inappropriate.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

DAVID Blunkett says the News of the World hacking his voicemails brought him close to a breakdown. He talks bitterly of suspicion, betrayal and the souring of relationships. Reality check, please. When a high-profile Home Secretary has a torrid affair with another man's wife, how does he think it's going to end? If mobile phones had not been invented, hacking was unknown and Rupert Murdoch had never been born, Blunkett's own folly would still have brought him crashing down.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IN December last year I wrote this about the female puppets in the Wonga TV adverts: "The moment they appeared, I found myself reminded of those evil old bags who were rounded up in Germany after the war and exposed as concentration-camp guards." There is something unpleasant about the whole payday-loan industry. Now it is revealed that Wonga sent thousands of letters threatening legal action to customers in arrears – from fake legal firms. Because this happened before the Financial Conduct Authority took over the regulation of payday lenders, it is unable to fine Wonga. But what about natural justice and the criminal law? If a back-street loan shark threatened legal action by bogus law firms wouldn't he be charged with obtaining money by deception? What's sauce for the shark is surely sauce for Wonga.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THE solution to England's football woes is staring us in the face. On the very day last week that England was knocked out of the world Cup by Liverpool, Ofsted published a report complaining that elite sport in this country is dominated by kids from private schools. No surprises there. Private schools tend to demand high standards of their pupils and what applies in the classroom also applies on the sports fields. The simple fact is that posh kids are bred to succeed. After half a century of decline it is time to accept that football has failed the working class, and vice-versa. It is time to gentrify the game. Ban football in all state schools. Rebuild the Football League around England's great public schools with teams such as Eton Wanderers, Harrow Rovers and Winchester Academicals. Boot out the Bash Street Kids and bring on Lord Snooty and his Pals. Bring the upper-crust dedication and expertise that gives us world-class riders, sailors and rugby players to bear on football. The age of the toff striker is at hand. Who knows, we might even get a better class of football hooligan.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

POLICE under Pressure (BBC2) is supposed to show how cops in Sheffield are coping with the wicked Tory budget cuts. What it actually tells us is that money is not the problem. The real issue is a police force (sorry, service) which commands zero respect and has absolutely no authority on the streets. You could double the police budget tomorrow and the underclass kids, all fully aware of their human rights, would still ignore the curfew and run rings around the bobbies. When it comes to clearing the streets and keeping the peace, nothing works quite like the Saudi Arabian system of a few hundred fit young religious police armed with long canes. It's called the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, and nobody messes with it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Homes plan for fire-hit pub site

THE site of a former fire-ravaged Walsall pub could be transformed into homes, under new regeneration plans.

The old Dolphin Inn boozer in Goscote, was demolished after a blaze almost eight years ago and the land has been standing empty since.

There have been previous problems with rubble being thrown from the site in Goscote Lane and horses also being tethered. Now fresh proposals for homes have been lodged with Walsall Council.

It comes as steps are being taken to regenerate derelict land within the area and this scheme would see a mixture of 19 two and three bedroom properties built.

Blakenall councillor Pete Smith welcomed plans being put forward for the site. It has taken a long time, if this planning application does go ahead I think it will be welcomed," he said.

"There have been problems ever since it was demolished. All the rubble was left on the site so people were throwing bricks. Subject to the satisfaction of the planning committee, and any local comments, any development there is to be really welcomed." The application states: "The original Dolphin public house was destroyed by fire. The application is for the redevelopment of the entire corner site.

"The principle objective of the development is to maximise the development potential of a derelict site."

The proposals will be discussed by the planning committee or considered under delegated officer powers in the coming months.

Failings outlined over unborn babies scandal

By Craig Hughes

WEAK leadership, missing paperwork and historical practices at Walsall Manor Hospital led to the remains of nearly 90 unborn babies kept for up to four years, a critical report has revealed.

The scandal at Walsall Manor Hospital came to light this year when a total of 86 foetal remains were uncovered.

An independent investigation has exposed a string of startling failures that led to the remains of abortions and miscarriages were never being released for cremation.

The review by Sandra Gray, of Buckley-Gray Consultancy, found:

* There was no trust-wide policy for dealing with the storage of foetal remains, just 'historical customs and practices'

* A history of clinicians in the obstetric and gynaecology service not filling out documents meant responsibility fell on a single pathologist over 12 years

* There had been no mortuary manager since 2010 with no formal training given to staff picking up responsibilities

* It became 'the norm' for between 30 and 60 foetal remains to be held in the mortuary

Findings

* There was no regular audits of policies and practices with weaknesses in the governance and management of risk concerning the backlog of foetal remains

* And a lack of recognition and or appreciation of what constituted a serious incident

The hospital board were due to discuss the findings at a meeting held last night, Wednesday, which highlights eight main areas that need addressing.

They include senior members of staff taking greater responsibility and accountability, creating proper procedures, and establishing a comprehensive bereavement service. Mrs Gray said the number of remains were only discovered as the hospital tried to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request.

The review states: "There is evidence that the trust has implemented a strong governance framework, however, there was no complete oversight of the system or rigorous facilitation for the timely disposal of foetal remains.

A report from Jayne Tunstall, chief operating officer at the Manor states: "The action plan now developed from the external review recommendations will be implemented at pace in order to ensure the risk of such an incident happening again is mitigated."

Rising tide of crowds for event

The crowds at Brownhills Canal Festival – pictures by Steve Leath

Andrew Higgs and Sophie Higgs, five, from Pelsall

Bob Park, Olivia the owl and Will Park

Chloe Sutton, aged six, Michelle Allen 42, Libby Harding, seven and James

MORE than 2,000 people attended a popular canal festival now celebrating its twelfth year.

The Brownhills Canal Festival saw a range of attractions from musicians, birds of prey and wood turning demonstrations along the waterway on Sunday.

The event was officially opened by Aldridge-Brownhills MP Sir Richard Shepherd with new Mayor of Walsall councillor Pete Smith attending.

Attractions included music, clown act Mad Dom, Spotlight Theatre, the Ikon Gallery's Slow Boat art project, Bob Park's birds of prey display, food, and a jazz club and Pelsall Ladies Choir.

There was also wool spinning and wood turning demonstrations and stalls. Sutton Canoe Club also ran sailing sessions and a race. Churches based in the town hosted an information stand at the canal front in Silver Street. Brownhills Local Committee chairman Douglas Birch MBE, who organises the event with Brownhills Canal Forum and The Waterways Trust, said: "Everyone was pleased with the manner of the day and it is something that really brought the community out."

The 83-year-old added: "There is a lot of support for the event and we are getting more and more volunteers which is good because we started it 12 years ago and we are not getting any younger."

Last year's Brownhills Canalside Festival was hampered by bad weather but this year Mr Birch said he was left feeling the had been a 'big success'. "We had one or two spots of rain but on the whole it was clear."

Delight for group as £350 is donated

THEY were left devastated after thieves stole charity money they had collected at a carnival.

But following an appeal in the Express & Star, volunteers from Manic Mutts Animal Rescue spoke of their delight after revealing generous well-wishers had now donated more than three times the amount that was taken.

About £100 collected by the former dog show and display team was stolen from their car at Willenhall Carnival, held at Willenhall Memorial Park, on June 14.

The volunteers had been running a car boot stall at the carnival. And, after coming forward with an appeal following the theft, organisers revealed that they had now received more than £350 in donations and cash pledges. Members of the public flocked to show their support.

Group secretary Barbara Lewthwaite said: "We have had lots of phone calls. We are really grateful to all the donors as their support has restored our faith in human nature."

West Midlands Police said efforts to find the culprits are continuing.

Eighties play starts in pub

A DRAMA company will be touring its own play, Black Country Blues, set in the 1980s, as part of the Black Country Festival.

The troupe, Drama And Some, based at Great Bridge Library in Tipton, debuted the play in an empty shop unit in West Bromwich's Queens Square in 2011.

It will be held at venues in Walsall, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Wolverhampton and Tipton between July 12 to 18. To launch the tour, and to tie in with the Black Country Festival, the first show at the Black Country Arms, in High Street, Walsall, will be a free performance. For details see www.dramaandsome.com

School boost

THE expansion of a school has received the go-ahead despite building on green belt land. Watling Street JMI in Brownhills has been given permission for a single-storey extension with new nursery and reception classrooms, toilets, cloakrooms and meeting space.

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100,000 residents are obese say chiefs

MORE than 100,000 people in Walsall are overweight or obese, health chiefs have warned.

GPs on the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have revealed that half the 270,000 population of the borough are overweight, while there is also an increasing number of young smokers.

A spokesman said: "It is estimated that more than half the population of Walsall is either overweight or obese. Meanwhile, approximately 50,000 adults in Walsall are smokers with an increasing number of young people smoking. This has significant implications in terms of serious conditions such as heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

Smoking during pregnancy is also high in Walsall – with 16.8 per cent of expectant mothers continuing to smoke compared with 14 per cent nationally.

Councillor Barbara McCracken, portfolio holder for social care and health, said: "There are lots of activities in place at leisure centres across the borough, which promote healthy living while in schools children are taught about the importance of a healthy diet."

Sam's school prom gets off to a flier

Daniel Batchelor, Sam Nickless and pupil Joe Carley

AS grand entrances go they do not get much bigger than how you arrive at your end of year prom.

Most students at Shire Oak Academy may have felt turning up in limousines, a Rolls Royce, a horse and carriage and even a double-decker London bus has set the bar.

But Daniel Batchelor, Joe Carley and Sam Nickless, all aged 16, had other ideas by turning up to their leavers' ball at Moor Hall Hotel in Sutton Coldfield by helicopter.

While pupils in the past may have done battle with their dazzling dresses or smart suits it appears the new craze is arriving in style.

Daniel, a member of the Air Training Corps in Aldridge, flew in with his friends in a Robinson R44 copter booked by his dad Ian and piloted by a family friend.

"It was what everybody was talking about on the night. They were pretty envious,'' he said.

"We flew over a big queue of limos and landed right outside. It was like a rock star entrance. I just had this overwhelming feel of 'wow, I've landed in a helicopter.

"It was a glorious end to five years at school – they'll all remember me now.

"I don't know how anyone's going to top it, they're going to hard to try hard to one-up me. They'd have to parachute in."

He was 'amazingly grateful' to his parents Ian and Joanne, from Aldridge, for the ride.

The helicopter took off from Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport and flew over 20 miles to the hotel. Prom organiser Carol Waite, a Year 11 assistant pastoral leader at Shire Oak, said this year had been the most extravagant event the Walsall-based school had seen.

"We've never heard of anyone arriving in a helicopter before." she said.

"I've seen a few unusual modes of transport over the years but this year we've had a red London bus, horse and carriage, massive lorry. It seems to be becoming the norm."

Fears for children if road patrol cash cuts go ahead

CHILDREN'S lives are going to be at risk if funds for crossing patrols outside schools in Walsall are cut, warn opponents.

Proposals have been unveiled by Walsall Council to stop funding for almost half of the school lollipop men and women.

The move would save £85,000 a year.

But parents and opposition councillors said they fear children's lives could be endangered if lollipop men and women are taken off patrols.

Schools will be asked to pay the wages of 38 lollipop men and women if plans go ahead.

The authority is proposing to cut funding for patrols at traffic lights or zebra crossings.

The remaining 44 patrols would still be paid for by the council.

Some 39 infant, junior and primary schools would be hit and a consultation on the plans has been launched before a decision is made later in the summer.

Councillor Adrian Andrew said Government cuts were forcing the council to make difficult decisions.

"We're consulting with schools to see whether they are interested in helping maintain the current level of service for school crossing patrols," he said.

Parents at some of the 39 schools that could be hit say lollipop men and women are vital for ensuring their children cross safely.

Dana Moore, a 39-year-old foster carer whose daughter is at Blue Coat CE Infants School, said: "The lollipop person plays a significant role in promoting road safety and community spirit.

"As a child the roads were not as busy as they are now and therefore the lollipop person has an integral role to play in today's society."

Three Peaks Challenge for charity

SIX workers from a building firm are taking part in the Three Peaks Challenge for a children's charity.

The staff from S.Clift Building Contractors Ltd , Walsall will raise money for Action Medical Research.

The challenge, which involves tackling the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours, will be taking place between July 5 and 6.

Building Bears will start at the foot of Ben Nevis in the Scottish Highlands.

After reaching the summit of Ben Nevis the team will head for the Lake District to climb Scafell Pike before driving to North Wales to tackle the last of the three peaks, Snowdon.

Teams must take the charity's mascot, Paddington Bear, up and down each mountain.

The team is hoping to raise a minimum of £2,000 to help fund medical research into conditions affecting babies and children.

To sponsor the team, visit www.action.org.uk, email info@sclift.com or call the team on 01922 713754.

Classes funding appeal is all sewn up

Tutor Yvonne Flavell reflects on the success of the' Mend It' community project at Green lane Baptist Church

A SEWING club is appealing for donations to put on a series of workshops.

The Mend It community project, which was created to bring members of the Walsall community together, needs cash to carry on with its classes at Green Lane Baptist Church in Walsall. The group meets for two hours every Tuesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 11.30am.

Jessica Selenic who is behind the group, said: "Mend It started in 2009 to teach people new skills and help them make friends. We were given money from the Community Development Fund for 30 weeks to use for the sewing club and everyone has had so much fun learning new skills, including how to work with felt, how to stitch, embroider and appliqué. .

"Everyone has said how much they have enjoyed it and we really want to carry it on but we need the funding."

Co-ordinator Valerie Morris came up the idea for the sewing sessions after discussions with church members about how to increase use of the complex and develop relationships with residents. As well as sewing classes, Mend It also holds a lunch club, a card-making workshop and keep fit sessions.

Miss Selenic added: "Anyone who can help out should give us a call because their money would make such a difference." The group is unsure how much funding it needs to continue but people can get in touch on 01922 625821 or visit wwww.glbc.org.uk

Concert for good cause

A CONCERT will be held in aid of Arthritis Research next Saturday. Pelsall Ladies Choir will be performing at St Michael's Church in the village on July 12.

Tickets are £5 for adults and free for under 16s from 7.30pm.

They are available from Kind Thoughts in High Street Pelsall or on the door.

The choir meet every Monday evening during term-time in the hall of St Michael's School, Pelsall from 7-9pm.

For more details call Margaret Merrick on 01922 693959 or June Davenhill on 01922 449243.

Museum masks

A MASK making workshop will take place at Walsall Leather Museum on July 30. Youngsters can make their own alien or monster mask, with sessions taking place between 10.30am and 12.30pm, and running from 1.30pm-3.30pm. It costs £1.50. Call 01922 652288.

NEWS in brief

Family fit and fun day is lined up

A FUN day of entertainment including five-a-side football, cheerleading, karate and circus skills will take place on Saturday.

The Streetly family fit and fun day will be at Veseyans Sports Club, Little Hardwick Road, from 11am to 3pm.

Visitors will be spoilt for choice for things to do, with a host of activities taking place including face-painting, dog agility demonstration, the Reach Up tower and "Disco Dome" bouncy castle.

Golf day boosts cancer charity

A FIRM held a golf day in memory of its former chairman to raise money for charity. Building contractor Shaylor Group hosted the Fred Shaylor Golf Classic at Little Aston Golf Club in Sutton Coldfield.

The tournament was named after Mr Shaylor who lost his fight against bowel cancer last year at the age of 69.

More than £12,000 was raised at the June 4 event and it is being donated to Beating Bowel Cancer.

Leather lessons are in the bag

WALSALL Leather Museum is holding a bag-making workshop for adults next week.

Sarah Benson will lead the session at the museum on July 12.

People will learn stitching techniques, fastening and hardware.

Tickets are £55, including materials. Call 01922 652288 or email leathermuseum@walsall.gov.uk to book.

Construction firm marks 25th

AN EVER-expanding construction business has celebrated its 25th anniversary. Hilton Main Construction Ltd in Sneyd Lane, Bloxwich, has grown to having 90 staff.

It was initially based in Essington but relocated to its current base. Among its clients are councils in Wolverhampton, Walsall and South Staffordshire.

Shop prize draw

A PRIZE draw will be among the attractions when Walsall Borough Cats' Protection opens a new shop. Shoppers are invited to the premises, in Croft Parade, in Aldridge, on Friday at 10.30am.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

THREE things spring to mind following Luis Suarez's latest attempt at a bit of light cannibalism.

First of all, the behaviour exhibited by the Uruguay striker during the World Cup in Brazil was truly disgraceful. The man clearly has problems, and such conduct has no place on a football field.

Secondly, if anybody seriously thinks a four-match ban is sufficient punishment for such outrageous behaviour – and remember this is the third time he has tried to feast on one of his opponents – then they are surely deluded. And thirdly - and most importantly of all, don't you just wish he had been able to do it before he put two past England?

❑❑❑❑❑

MAYBE if Fifa is serious about helping Suarez with his, ahem, dietary problems, he ought to try taking a leaf out of Anita Smith's book. Literally.

Anita developed a taste for paperbacks while pregnant with her second child, and over the past 20 years she reckons she has munched her way through more than 6,000 books.

The 49-year-old former insurance clerk, presumably she had to give up work to devote more time to her book collection, says in the early days she used to gorge herself in the library, but her conscience got the better of her. Now she buys them in second-hand shops at 50p a throw.

Could you imagine Suarez in a bookshop or a library? He would never live it down.

❑❑❑❑❑

ANDY Murray's mother Judith is said to be 'in the advanced stages' of negotiating a place on Strictly Come Dancing. Is it me, or does that sound like a medical condition?

❑❑❑❑❑

INCIDENTALLY, I have already decided that this year's Wimbledon is the best yet.

What? Better than last year, when we had the first British winner since 1936? Better than when John McEnroe smashed up the drinks machine 30-odd years ago? Definitely.

Because this week, while a noisy section of the population will be screaming at their television sets like banshees about Tiger Jim or whoever it is these days, I will be basking in the 80 degree sunshine of Kotor harbour in Montenegro, with not a tennis racquet in sight. More strawberries?

❑❑❑❑❑

BARCLAY'S has developed a smart phone app which allows people to make payments into their account by photographing a cheque and sending it down the phone line to the bank.

Brilliant. Given the impregnable security surrounding mobile phone devices, as exhibited by the recent phone-hacking scandal, what could possibly go wrong?

Slade in their heyday, with Noddy on the right

The ceremony takes place inside the council chamber

With Canadian radio vice president Andre St-Amand

Freedom honour is given the Nod

LISA O'BRIEN was one of hundreds who saw Slade star Noddy Holder receive the Freedom of Walsall . . .

SLADE star Noddy Holder has sold millions of records across the globe and has had countless accolades and tributes for his music, however, last week, he hailed being given the freedom of Walsall as one of the highlights of his career.

The public gallery in Walsall's council chamber was packed with fans watching the special ceremony last Wednesday, while around 250 people filled seats in the town hall to watch the event live on a big screen.

The musician, who was born in Caldmore, arrived in the chamber to claps and cheers, which continued throughout the ceremony.

After being presented with a silver casket containing the illuminated scroll by the mayor, he said: "It's not very often I get choked up but I am choked up tonight. This is a great thing for the profile of Walsall, especially for the arts world. The Black Country is still going strong.

"When people come here it's the people's hospitality that can't be beat."

He said he had flown the flag for the Black Country all over the world, adding: "I'm really, really chuffed. I can't tell you how much." He also read out a verse he had made up about his home town which ended with: "Walsall is real, that's why I still call it home."

Before the presentation Councillor Smith revealed some fans had travelled from Manchester and Canada to be in the public gallery. On receiging the honour, Noddy, who received an MBE in 2000, said: "It is up there with the best, it is my roots, even though I have not lived in the Midlands a long time, I still call it my home. It is where I grew up, it is what formed my personality. I just wish my mum and dad could still be alive. They would have been so chuffed."

Noddy Holder with Mayor Councillor Peter Smith, after receiving the honour

The honour has received universal backing from members of the public with Noddy being inundated with messages. "They love it, I have had so many letters and good wishes from Midlands people. They say 'you are working class, you come from a working class background'," he added.

He said: "As soon as I get back to the Midlands and hear the accent I get a bit broader with mine. I adore the Black Country humour."

Councillors were also given the chance to pay thanks to the star. St Matthews Councillor Mohammed Arif said: "I actually welcome the son of Caldmore being given the freedom of the borough. I think it's an honour that is well deserved."

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew told him: "You've managed to appeal to all sorts of generations."

After the council unanimously confirmed the motion, the roll of freeman was signed by the 68-year-old and Walsall's Mayor, Councillor Pete Smith, and the council's chief executive Paul Sheehan signed the illuminated scroll recording the musician's admission as honorary freeman of the borough.

Following the ceremony, the former Elmore Green Grammar School and T.P Riley Comprehensive pupil went to the town hall to meet fans.

Father-of-two Bill Taylor, of Dudley Fields, Bloxwich, said he had queued outside for a couple of hours to secure his seat. The 58-year-old said: "I've been a fan since I was 15. I'm as fanatical now as I was before. "I love his music, it's magic. I was queuing with 30 or 40 people but more turned up after they opened the doors."

Paul Mason, of High Street, Brownhills, 40, said:"He's down to earth and approachable. It's about time they did something to recognise him."

Andre St-Amand had travelled from Canada, where he works as a vice president of programming for radio stations.

The 53-year-old, from Montreal, said: "During my teenage years I was maybe the biggest Slade fan. It was very good time music for me. We play Slade songs on air and Merry Xmas Everybody during the holiday."

The musician was born in Newhall Street, Caldmore, before the family moved to the brand new Gypsy Lane council estate in 1953, later renamed Beechdale Estate. Noddy made his singing debut on stage at Walsall Labour Working Men's Club, opposite the Cenotaph, aged seven. He carried on performing around the Midlands clubs and became a professional entertainer after he left school aged 16.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s his rock vocals were the trademark of Slade and the band produced 40 hit singles in the UK alone, including six number ones. Merry Xmas Everybody is listened to by more than three billion people each year.

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

TONY Blair's three priorities were 'education, education, education'. But I'm not so sure he or anyone else has managed to achieve even the first one.

I'm sorry if it offends the many hard-working teachers who have made strides in terms of exam results. It's the politicians I'm talking about. In 2014 we still don't seem to have grasped what it is we're meant to be teaching our kids.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin brought the shadow education secretary Tristram Hunt to his patch. Mr Hunt, incidentally, is the historian and broadcaster turned politician who occasionally gets tipped as a possible replacement for Ed Miliband.

While they were touring the impressive Dudley College, talking to enthusiastic young people, learning everything from art to how to run the hospitality on aeroplanes, they were speaking about the need to boost skills.

"We've lost many of our traditional industrial jobs and I think the biggest question we face is how we bring new, well-paid and secure jobs to the Black Country to replace them," Mr Austin said. He's right, of course. So is Tristram Hunt when he says young people needed to accept that the days of well-paid, low skilled jobs were over.

Bilston steelworks shut in 1979. People tried with all their might to save it but the Thatcher government would not intervene in the decision of the British Steel Corporation. That was the biggest blow the town ever suffered. Here's where I start to despair about the situation today.

I stumbled across the one and only article in the Express & Star's digital archive written by a young Boris Johnson, now Mayor of London, when he was a trainee reporter sent by The Times to cut his teeth in the real world. In it, Boris reports on a rising number of vacancies in the Black Country in 1988 and a lack of applicants to fill them.

"To a great extent the bosses are frustrated because the unemployed who come to them for jobs are short of essential skills," he wrote. "Many skills, such as those required in steel manufacture, have become outdated with the decline of heavy industry."

In those 26 years we have had five Prime Ministers, an overhaul of schools to create thousands of academies, the longest recession since the Second World War and we don't seem to be any further on.

Boris Johnson could have been writing about 2014 as much as about 1988. But then the political elite are almost all Oxbridge educated and these days the route to Westminster is trod by researchers and special advisers. We can't expect them to know what kids need to learn to get a proper job in the real world, when so MPs many have never had one themselves.

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Agreement over pro-invasion Blair

IT WAS a rare pleasure to find myself in complete agreement with the main thrust of a letter from Alan Etheridge, June 21, bemoaning Tony Blair's stance on Iraqi intervention.

Before I could get over the shock, I was amazed to find myself similarly in agreement with B Parsons along similar lines.

There is a certain irony in the fact that Blair's enthusiasm for invasions arises directly from his yearning to appease right-wingers like Etheridge and Parsons. In his wish to eradicate any remaining spot of socialism from the Labour Party, Blair consistently only hesitated when the White House said 'jump' long enough to ask, 'how high?'

In fairness to Blair and Bush, they are not alone as western politicians interfering in countries and cultures they don't understand. Back in the late 1960s, women undergraduates at the University of Kabul were as likely to wear miniskirts as their western counterparts. Freedom for Afghan women (in Kabul at least) to dress as they please ended when America backed those lovely Mujahideen to fight the Russian-backed government. The Mujahideen morphed into the Taliban. Blair and Bush Junior's invasion of Iraq was preceded by that of Bush Senior and Thatcher when Saddam Hussein had had the temerity to invade and illegally occupy Kuwait.

Arab observers could only note the contrast with another invasion and illegal occupation, that of Israel in Palestine.That illegal occupation continues when I am a pensioner, with no military intervention by NATO to end it. Small wonder that Muslims and Arabs think we're hypocrites.

A T HARRISON, Walsall

Whose oil is it in the North Sea?

BY what reasoning do the Scots contend that North Sea oil belongs to them? Unless my aged memory has deteriorated to the point of advanced dementia, the oil platform is operated by 'British Petroleum', not 'Scottish Energy'.

Yes, the site is located off the Scottish coast, but France is located off the south coast of England and we haven't (as yet) laid claim to that territory!

In the event of a vote in favour of independence, Alex Salmond's Scottish National Party has announced its intention of retaining the 'sovereign'. Maybe they are confusing the sovereign with the pound sterling, but their chances of retaining either one, rest somewhere between nil and zero!

Let's give voting rights to English, Welsh and Northern Irish citizens. There could be only one outcome; the immediate ejection of Scotland from the UK.

A V HARRISON
Walsall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Usual game-playing is alienating public

WHAT happened at Walsall Council's 'crunch vote' on control of the no-overall control council was clearly an alliance that proclaimed 'anyone but Labour'. I was not surprised as during the recent local elections the vast majority of candidates represented right of centre to extreme right wing parties and policies.

The march to the right is dominated by the policies of austerity. Where there is no hope we get UKIP. Our NHS privatised, disabled and young people losing services and our public services destroyed. Realising that Walsall Council have to cut £32 million in the next Budget and £108m over four years Walsall people are best served by a professional and dedicated chamber of elected members.

Sadly, at the first council of the municipal year we endured the customary ill-mannered behaviour, game playing, political platitudes, personal enmities, ancient history lessons, that without doubt switch local people off and alienate potential voters.

The party that realises that approximately 65 percent of potential voters who don't vote are vital to our town's future and that what happens in the council chamber is only part of the democratic process, the quicker we will tackle the huge democratic deficit we suffer across Walsall.

Councillor Doug James, Walsall

Failure of centre is no surprise

WE keep reading in the news how town centres are suffering loss of trade and shops lying empty – well it is quite understandable at Walsall. For the last four weeks I have gone to the Saddlers Centre and parked up needing to go to a couple of shops on the ground floor and upper floor only to find that each time the lift is out of order.

Yes there is the escalator but being disabled I cannot get on these so have to struggle and walk round stopping to rest a few times on the way. The excuses range from it's been repaired to needing a new one.

I feel so sorry for the traders who are all losing money. At least two I wanted to go to will have lost my trade plus other people who are not going up or down to the shops. I think it's about time they stopped making excuses and got it sorted before there is no use at all for it as everyone will have gone elsewhere.

K COOPER, Darlaston

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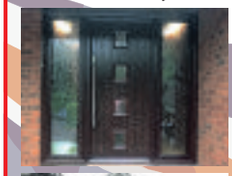

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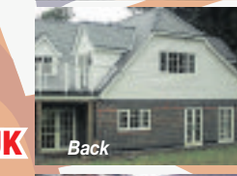

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Dealer in jail return after losing drugs fight

A FATHER of two was caught dealing drugs just five months after being freed from a long prison sentence for a carbon copy crime, a judge heard.

Rory Allen was stopped by police who recognised him as a banned driver after spotting him behind the wheel of a Peugeot car in Forge Street, Darlaston on April 1.

by John Scott

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, at Wolverhampton Crown Court, last Thursday, explained: "When they searched the vehicle they found heroin valued at £4,140 in the glove box and £130 worth of crack in a box in the boot."

Allen, aged 26, had 24 previous convictions involving 46 separate offences and in 2011 was jailed for five years for dealing cocaine and heroin. He quit drugs while behind bars but suffered a relapse after being moved to a different jail and was hooked again by the time he was released on licence in November last year, disclosed Mr Christopher Loach, defending.

The lawyer continued: "He was in prison when his second daughter was born and will now spend a considerable part of her early life there as well."

Allen from Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston told the court: "I just want to get this over and done with so that I can become a good father for my kids."

He admitted possessing heroin and crack with intent to supply and was jailed for four years by Judge John Wait who told him: "You started out as a user of drugs but then becoming heavily involved in the supply of drugs. This led to the conviction three years ago. "As you set out on that sentence your original intention was to rid yourself of your drug problem. Then you moved prisons and reverted to the use of drugs. "

Fair strawberry crop thanks to the weather

Amy Foster at Essington Fruit Farm picking strawberries which are flourishing this year because of the weather

LOVERS of strawberries are being invited to Essington Fruit Farm –where they have a bumper crop of the fruit this year. Perfect weather conditions – a mixture of rain and sunshine – in recent weeks have yielded the flourishing crop at the farm near Willenhall.

And staff at the farm in Bognop Road, in Essington, think the fruit is putting a smile on their faces, after recent research suggested strawberries are the happiest fruit around. Richard Simkin, who runs the farm, said the strawberries were larger than in recent years. He said they were giving the site a summery look as temperatures continue to rise.

Mr Simkin said: "We're just about to launch into the peak season and the crop has come out beautifully. Strawberries are apparently the fruit which makes people most happy, and they also lower blood pressure, we hear.

"We've certainly got very cheerful staff and we all eat lots of strawberries, so it must be true."

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£14m spent by NHS chiefs on agency staff

HOSPITALS in the West Midlands forked out £14 million on agency staff in a year due to a shortage of nurses and other workers to fill shifts.

Figures show that the bill for agency workers for the five NHS Trusts covering the Black Country and Staffordshire doubled in 2013/2014.

It was £6.3m in 2012/13.

Tens of thousands of shifts at hospitals around the region are being filled by agency workers and the latest figures include a nurse paid more than £1,400 for a 12-hour bank holiday shift – nearly £120 an hour.

Bosses blame increasing patient numbers and staff sickness for the soaring spending which saw almost £6m shelled out by one trust alone. The figures have led to MPs and officials across the region to call for action to ensure enough money is being spent on permanent workers.

And Labour's Shadow Health Secretary has blamed the government for the situation in the region. Andy Burnham MP said: "David Cameron's short-sighted plans are bad for the NHS and bad for our economy. He is making experienced nurses redundant only to waste millions on agency staff across the West Midlands."

The Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust was the biggest spender in the Black Country and Staffordshire, paying out £5,828,000 on agency nurses to cover more than 31,000 shifts.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust spent £3,324,655 on agency staff in the same period. The cost had more than doubled compared to the £1,432,207 in 2012/13.

Mayor of Walsall Councillor Pete Smith said: "They are cutting back on staff then splash out the cash for these nurses that do not have the same insight, experience or in-depth knowledge on patients and wards.

"There is currently not the economy for that being spent. "

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South and a member of the Government's Health Select Committee, added: "Spending £3.3 million on agency nurses is not in the best interests of patients and it is not the best use of public money.

"The Government must urgently set out a strategy to address the shortage of nurses nationally. A report published in May by Health Education England showed that there is a 10 per cent vacancy rate for nursing posts in England this year.

"Hospitals should not be spending millions of pounds on agency staff when this money could be spent for more efficiently on employing permanent nursing staff."

Valerie Vaz, MP

Walsall Manor Hospital, where trust spending on agency staff has increasedi

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Justin to bare all for rock calendar

Rockers baring all for charity: Ste Gough and Craig Horobin of My Great Affliction, who will feature for the month of March

GLAM rock star Justin Hawkins has agreed to strip naked for a charity calendar organised by two Walsall neighbours.

Lucy Onions and Sarah Burke have persuaded The Darkness frontman to pose naked – with only his guitar to preserve his modesty – as part of a 2015 calendar they are producing to to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The calendar, entitled Instrumental Covers 2015, features a different rock group or performer for each month of the year, all naked apart from their strategically placed instrument.

Sarah, a 40-year-old mother-of-one from Monmouth Road in Bentley, said she and her next-door neighbour Lucy – a 35-year-old music photographer – hit upon the idea after the 'no make-up selfie week' in March raised £8 million for Cancer Research UK.

"We saw some of the banter from some of the men, and thought why don't they have their pictures taken naked to raise money for Macmillan Cancer," she said.

"We're both passionate about photography, and we know quite a lot of local bands, so we thought we would see what we could do. We also sent a lot of messages on Twitter to famous rock stars. We didn't expect much, but Justin Hawkins was the one who got back. Now that's worth the price of the calendar alone."

"We have already got photos of Stourbridge based WEAK13 and Great Torrington locals, The Dead Betas," added Sarah. She and Lucy said they had set an initial target of raising £4-5,000. The calendar will officially be launched at a gig at the Robin on December 7.

Justin Hawkins of the Darkness

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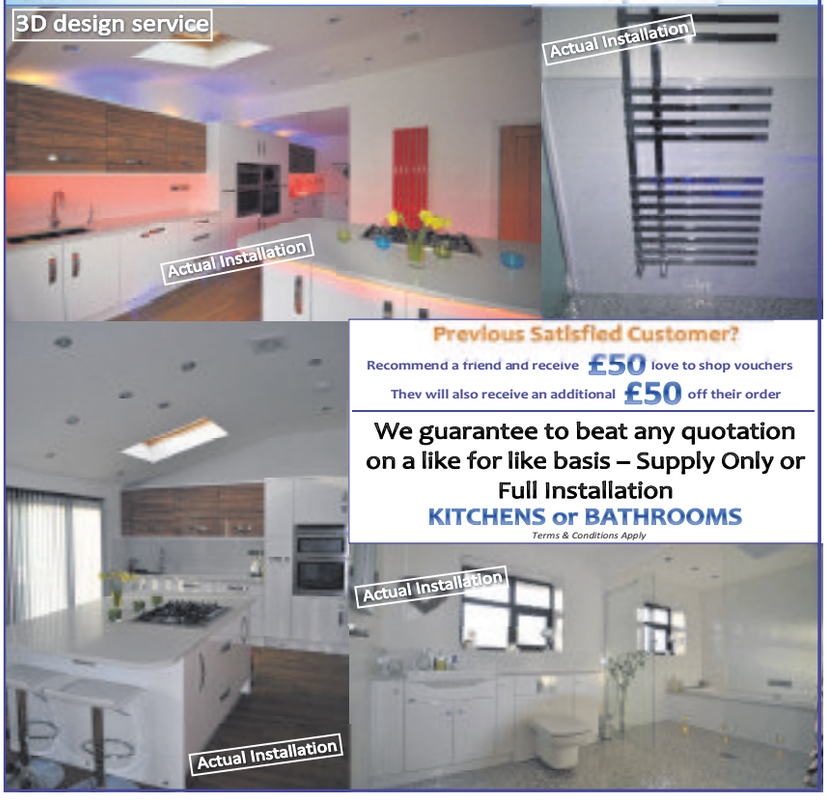

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Contest hope for town is blooming

Sprucing up Brownhills – left, Carole and Philip Heydon and Vickie Heydon-Matterface get busy

VOLUNTEERS got stuck in with planting, litter picking and tidy-up work to help Brownhills sparkle ahead of it being assessed by judges in a floral competition.

Brownhills is taking part in Britain In Bloom and residents were being asked to roll up their sleeves and take part in a big clean up over the weekend ahead of the competition's judges who are visiting today, Thursday, to assess the town's entry.

Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said: "This is the fifth year that Brownhills has taken part in the In Bloom campaign and requires a huge community effort.

"We want to ensure the town is spick and span and weed free and showcases the town to a tip-top standard."

Last year Aldridge and Bloxwich received a gold award, with Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall receiving silver in the urban community category. It comes as the owners of Ravens Court shopping precinct in Brownhills were ordered to clear it up or face court action by the council.

Asda home deliveries bid passed by council

A HOME shopping service will be launched at a supermarket, creating 25 new jobs, after plans were approved – despite fears which had been raised over noise and traffic.

by Adam Burling

Asda in Woodall Street, Bloxwich will create the new roles as it starts to offer home deliveries. It will see a home shopping pod, external freezer and two canopies set up.

A meeting of Walsall Council's planning committee heard residents had objected, complaining that noise from delivery lorries was already waking them up at 4.30am.

But Asda bosses have insisted that just two vans will make no more than four trips each a day as part of the home delivery schedule.

A previous application was rejected last year, and council bosses put off making a decision on fresh plans last month amid concerns over vehicle access. But now the plans have been given the go-ahead. Committee chairman Councillor Garry Perry said: "I will move for this to be approved but Asda needs to seek a resolution over these issues."

A petition with 26 signatures has been collected by people from flats in Woodall House amid fears of extra noise, parking problems and disturbance caused by deliveries.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "This store is in a residential area. Why not choose a 24-hour town centre store?"

A report to the committee stated: "Objectors have raised the issue of Asda delivery vehicles parking on double yellow lines. Further they indicate that the parking results in difficulties for wheelchair users who have to use the roadway to pass the vehicles.

"Residents have been advised that if this continues to be an issue then they should contact parking enforcement direct for action to be taken."

200 health complaints

HEALTH bosses in Walsall had more than 200 complaints in the past 12 months, new figures claim. Between April 2013 and March this year there were 211 calls to a helpline set up to deal with grievances from patients in the town.

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group said most of the complaints referred to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, continuing health care, out-of-hours services, walk-in centres, and care homes.

The CCG directly received 29 complaints in the past year with areas of concern including clinical treatment.

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JOIN THE CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL AT NEW SQUARE

New Square shopping centre in West Bromwich will celebrate its first birthday this week with a carnival themed party – and you're all invited!

Taking place on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th July the two-day extravaganza will include live music, dancing, family games, surf simulator, face painting, street food and even a limbo competition!

Shoppers will be transported to the colourful Caribbean with performances from a live steel pan calypso band and the arrival of a Caribbean Food Shack – serving traditional street food such as Jerk Chicken and Curry Mutton – all served with rice and peas of course!

On Friday and Saturday Limbo performers will demonstrate their amazing flexibility while encouraging people to have a go themselves. Those brave enough to give it a go and get down low will be given a memento from the celebrations.

By Saturday the party will be in full swing with the arrival of the Carnival Dancers! New Square will resemble Rio as the professional dancers perform a number of show stopping routines around the shopping centre.

Also on Saturday there will be a range of fun activities for the family to enjoy, such as a surf simulator and juice bikes - you'll have to peddle hard to make your own Caribbean juice. Free face painting will also transform customers of all ages with bright colours,

feathers and jewels – completing the carnival experience!

New Square would like as many people as possible to get into the party spirit and is asking customers to take carnival themed selfies at the centre and post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #NewSquareselfie – the best picture will win a £100 worth of Outfit vouchers.

Centre Manager Steve Burr said: "Its been a fantastic year for New Square and so it's only fitting that we celebrate in style and thank everyone in West Bromwich who has contributed to its success."

All activities are free and take place between 11am-4pm.

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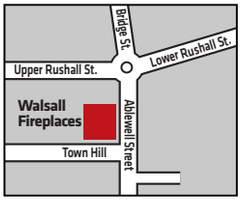

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Camera-shy because of failing teeth, images of a dream Caribbean wedding are missing a mum's proud smile but now she's . . .

THE SUN shone, the sea was as blue as the cloudless sky and a small, family group celebrated a wedding on the shoreline of paradise.

With the warm, golden sand beneath their feet, they toasted the happy couple and made memories that would last lifetimes.

Runaway Bay, one of the jewels of the Caribbean, had it all – magic, romance, a spectacular setting and the ultimate backdrop for wedding album pictures – and there were plenty to be taken.

But one person was noticeably absent from the captured images of the smiles, laughter and celebrations on that special day.

Only a single frame – a group shot ,and not a close-up – featured the groom's proud mum. Jan had travelled more than 4,600 miles to embrace the Big Day moment with five others in the wedding party, but in her own words, "I didn't feel right."

Teeth were a mess

Everything was perfect, everyone was happy and "it was a lovely, lovely day," but Jan deliberately melted into the background every time the cameras clicked.

"I wouldn't have my picture taken," she confesses. "I know it seems strange, but I did not want to spoil the day for my son. That's the way I felt. Everything was lovely, I'd taken some lovely clothes, the setting was lovely and you couldn't have wished for better . . . the people, the ceremony in the pagoda, the beach bungalow where we stayed and the way the locals were so friendly to us.

"But my teeth were a mess. When I smiled you couldn't see any of my teeth and I was so embarrassed at the way they looked, I not only spoke with my hand in front of my mouth, I ate like that too," Jan, from Kidderminster, recalls.

Jan is all smiles as she tends one of her acer trees in her garden.

As the groom's mum, the focus of attention was emotionally crippling.

Now in her 60s, Jan's troubles began some 40 years ago. Suffering with a gum disorder in her lower jaw, her dentist carried out a full clearance.

"I had four lower teeth in the front where the trouble was, but I was told I had to lose them all. In those days you just accepted it. It was a horrible experience and those experiences stay with you," she says. Jan tolerated a catalogue of prosthetic prescriptions which never "felt comfortable or looked right" and for 15 years her food choices were seriously compromised.

"I couldn't eat apples, or pears, or steak and every time I went to a restaurant I'd have to order fish. My gums were always sore and I couldn't chew properly," she adds.

Jan's self-esteem hit rock bottom until she saw an article in the newspaper about Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"My husband said I should book an appointment and I told him that he needed to get laser surgery on his eyes. He said 'I can live with glasses, but you can't live without your teeth."

It was true: Meeting Jan now is an engaging experience and she loves her new look.

> "I'm planning to go back for our 50th wedding anniversary... *guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"*

"On the picture from the wedding my face seems so small, but my whole appearance has changed since meeting Steven. My only regret is that I didn't meet him earlier," she adds.

Steven CDT DipRCS(Eng) says: "Jan came to me with dentures that were not really helping here. She had a lot of gum and bone erosion – a natural ageing process – and her dentures were not stable.

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Says Jan, who has now taken her 85-year-old mother for some new teeth at the Denture Clinic: "All the way home after my new teeth were fitted I kept looking in the car's vanity mirror and smiling at myself. I was so chuffed.

"I'm planning to go back to Runaway Bay with my husband in 2016 for our 50th wedding anniversary and guess who won't be frightened to have their picture taken then?"

As for her experience with Denture Clinic: "Simply the best! I can't thank Steven and his team enough."

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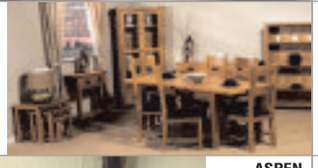

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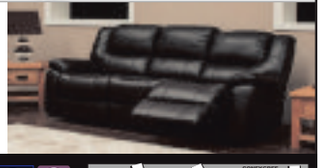

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Women inspired at latest business event

A FASHION show, exhibition stands and a chance for business women to network all featured as part of an event which was held at Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium.

The Women in Business Expo event was organised by Walsall-based Headz Up Business, which delivers business training, networking and conferences.

Around 320 people attended the event where inspirational awards were also handed out to companies that have helped to support women in the past.

It also raised money and awareness for educational charity, Women Acting in Today's Society.

Mother-of-three Pushpa Alexander, who launched Headz Up Business in 2010, said: "Women's work has dramatically changed over the past 100 years.

Consultant

"Roles have changed and digital technology means we can have a flexible working life environment.

"The event was to connect like-minded women. There was the chance to network and visit exhibition stalls.

"There was a fashion show feature where some image consultant experts gave tips about how to maximise their look and boost confidence."

Mrs Alexander, of Willenhall, added: "There's people out there who will help women get to their goals. It was also about changing mindsets. You can still run a business from home. There were women there who were running businesses who had families."

Centre, Emaan Syed, from Wednesbury, with Ginger Nijjar from Wolverhampton

On the catwalk is Nadine Desai, modelling uniform wear by Tiffany Stanford

Amber is go for fundraising

FUNDRAISING efforts to help a five-year-old to undergo a life-changing operation are in full swing.

Amber Porterfield has the condition spastic diplegic cerebral palsy and had uses a walking frame and a wheelchair.

With the help of Pelsall Village School where she attends, Amber's family launched an appeal to raise £60,000 for her to be treated at Cerebral Palsy Centre at the St Louis Children's Hospital, in Missouri, in July next year. If successful the surgery will help her to walk unaided.

Her mother Susannah is due to undertake a sponsored skydive in Nottingham next month and her dad Mark will take part in a boxing night at the the Venue, in Dudley, on October 4.

Staff at Ansons Solicitors, of Cannock, will take part in a sponsored walk tomorrow, towards the appeal.

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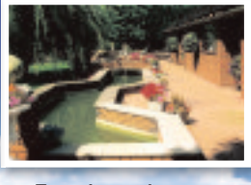

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Focus on Aldridge

Company's sales boost after focus on training

A COMMITMENT to developing its own people is paying off for a Willenhall manufacturing specialist after it more than doubled the size of the business in the last year.

AlphaDrive Engineering Services, which offers the supply, mechanical repair and fabrication of bearings, industrial gearboxes, motors and power transmissions, has seen sales increase to £320,000 after landing a string of new contracts in the aggregates, food and beverage and paper making sectors.

Backed by support from In-Comm Training based in Aldridge, the company has created an in-house training and continuous development plan for all employees and is also investing in the next generation of engineers with two local apprentices recently taken on.

It is an approach the management team is keen to build on, with the aim of hitting £1m turnover by 2018.

"We started the business just as the recession was coming to its peak, but knew deep down we could offer customers something different," explained MD Anthony Chisholm.

AlphaDrive currently employs eight people at its Ashmore Lake Way premises, an increase of six new staff in the last year alone. Two engineering apprentices have also been employed and are undertaking training both on-site and at In-Comm's purpose built workshop in Aldridge.

Shopper highlights coin problems facing stores

A SUPERMARKET shopper in Aldridge has raised the profile on a problem facing stores with self-service machines.

There has been an increase in the number of people using foreign coins in the devices and Morrisons has now stopped accepting £2 coins in some of its stores. The problem came to light in a local newspaper report, following an Aldridge reader who got in touch.

by Simon Stone

The member of the public was concerned that the £2 coin ban came about as a result of a flood of forgeries in the region.

However, a spokesman for the retailer said that coins such as an Iranian 250 rial and the Thai 10 baht are similar in size and weight as the larger £2 coin.

He added: "A number of stores have had foreign currency passed off as £2 coins at self-checkouts.

"While we fix the issue, we have temporarily stopped them accepting any £2 coins. Customers are still free to use them at all manned checkouts.

"We apologise for any inconvenience it is causing but don't expect the fix to take long."

A spokesman for coin experts Jewellery Quarter Bullion Ltd said: "The key with these machines is weight and diameter. A £2 coin weighs 12 grammes."

"It may well be," he added, "that shoppers are not looking to rip anyone off. In some cases, there is very little difference in currency value. They are simply trying to use change they gathered while holidaying abroad."

It was long believed £2 coins would be too expensive to copy because they're bimettalic – made from two alloys. But last June a counterfeit press, was found in an East End warehouse and was found to be responsible for £1 and £2 coin forgeries.

The lead coins, dubbed crude copies, had been sprayed silver and gold, but would not be accepted in vending machines because they were magnetic.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for online specialists 24carat.co.uk said: "We don't yet fully understand why counterfeiters would be turning to forging £2 coins when we would have thought it would be easier and more worthwhile to focus on £1 coins.

By-election candidates

THE list of candidates battling it out for a spot on Walsall Council following the death of former Labour Part leader Tim Oliver, has been revealed. Five candidates will be taking part in the Birchills-Leamore by-election on July 24. They include Gazanfer Ali, for the Tories, Labour candidate Chris Jones, Chris Newey for the English Democrats and Paul White, representing UKIP.

Volunteer Michael Argyle polishes the new 1939 Morris Commercial Co-op van

Van rolling back years at museum

A NEW attraction featuring a classic Co-op van has been unveiled at a museum.

Work to install three shop fronts at Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge has now been completed. A green and black 1939 Morris Commercial Co-op van is parked up in front of the shops.

One of the directors of the museum, Alan Bishop, said: "The shop fronts look really impressive." The shops include a Co-op, greengrocers and travel agent Midland Red.

The museum has been open at its current base in Shenstone Drive for almost 12 months. Around 20 volunteers help to run the attraction which is open to the public. The museum's collection includes a tram from the 1920s, a van from around 1928 and a taxi from the 1970s, along with an old Royal Mail bicycle, bus stops and an old fuel pump.

The museum, which includes more than 20 vehicles, managed to secure a lease for the Shenstone Drive base in 2012.

It was the second time the charity has had to move its belongings. It relocated from its original home in Birmingham after a row with the city council over rent.

MP given an insight into clinic's work

AN MP got a better insight into the role of staff at an eye clinic during a visit to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Aldridge and Brownhills MP Sir Richard Shepherd was invited to the hospital to see how people are supported when told they will lose their sight.

The eye clinic liaison officer (ECLO) is funded by social care and inclusion at Walsall Council and employed by Walsall Society for the Blind. The role involves practical and emotional support to those with sight problems.

Sir Richard said: "I really enjoyed the visit and learned a great deal about the brilliant work ECLOs carry out.

"It's a service that provides essential support to people who have been newly diagnosed."

Rebecca Swift, RNIB regional campaigns officer for the West Midlands, said, not only are ECLOs vital when it comes to providing emotional support, but they can also offer important practical support such as transferring people to the right social services departments.

Charity walk for heart care

A FOUR-MILE sponsored walk in Walsall will be aiming to raise money for a heart charity.

The event in aid of Heart Care will take place on July 6 from 11am.

It will start at the Dilke car park in Aldridge and go through the Lime Pits Nature Reserve.

Those who take part must make a donation to Heart Care, or collect sponsorship.

For details email sarah.jackson@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk.

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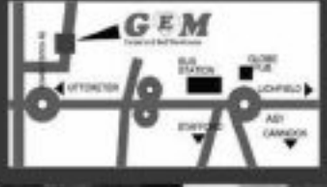

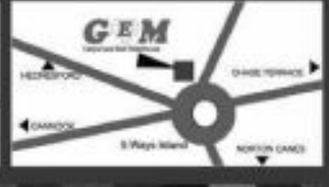

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A family group shot, with perhaps mature daughters and their older parents

An undated wedding picture was among those discovered

Joyce Onions, who rescued a set of letters, dated from 1914-1922, from a bonfire in 1978

Mystery over First World War love letters found on a bonfire

Perhaps one of the mystery authors, in naval uniform

A photo included with letters dated 1914-1922

Memory Lane
by Lisa O'Brien

THEY have been tucked away in a drawer for decades after being salvaged from the remains of a bonfire.

But now great grandmother Joyce Onions is hoping to trace the relatives of a sailor who penned a series of letters to his wife in Walsall about his life at sea during the First World War and beyond.

The 69-year-old found almost two dozen letters dating back to between 1916 and 1922 when she went to view a house in Bentley Lane, Walsall, in 1978. She retrieved the letters from the remains of a bonfire in the garden.

They had been written by Royal Navy sailor Jack Southall to his wife.

In them he described how he explored cathedrals, caves and the masterpieces of Michelangelo as his voyage took him from country to country.

Some of them had been sent from as far as Malta and several photographs found with the letters are also believed to shown the sailor and his wife throughout their lives, as well as babies and family gatherings.

He starts many letters with 'My own darling wife' and signs off with the words 'your own darling and ever loving hubby, Jack', and in some he lovingly tells his other half of the presents he has picked up for her on his travels.

Great-grandmother-of-one Mrs Onions, of Bradshaw Avenue, Darlaston, said: " It would be lovely to find the relatives of the man who sent the letters so they can treasure them. They are quite historical. "I had sent the letters to the Imperial War Museum but they said they were not letters about the war and sent them back."

The letters do though offer an insight into the pressures the crew were under at the time as they battled harsh weather. He penned one saying he had been feeling ill and his temperature had rocketed to 38C(101F).

In one of his letters, he writes that any member of the crew with a cough or cold had to attend the sick bay for treatment or else face punishment.

One of the pictures shows a serviceman wearing a string of medals and has left Mrs Onions wondering if it could be the sailor. According to the honours and awards team working for the Royal Navy, it is believed the medals he is wearing in the black and white picture are the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal 1914-1920, Victory Medal and the Royal Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Victory Medal was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914-15 Star, for service in the First World War, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal. The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is given to those who have completed 15 years of reckonable service. Among the photos included in the letters are pictures of a married couple in their early 20s, twin babies and a family gathering by the seaside.

In one of the letters, the sailor speaks of buying seven yards of silk lace from a convent for his wife.

And a letter from 1921 shows he had also bought her another gift of a canary on his travels.

He talks about having to ration its daylight and makes references to trying to get the bird safely to Walsall.

Mrs Onions said the letters were in a drawer for decades but admitted she was now anxious to find relatives of the sailor. The Royal Naval Association said they didn't keep records of former Navy members. The National Archives had no record of Jack and the Ministry of Defence couldn't search in their records without a date of birth.

Anyone with information can call Mrs Onions on 0121 526 4062.

A group of men and women are seen on a beach, presumably somewhere on Britain

A very well-presented middle aged couple seen walking along a shop-lined street

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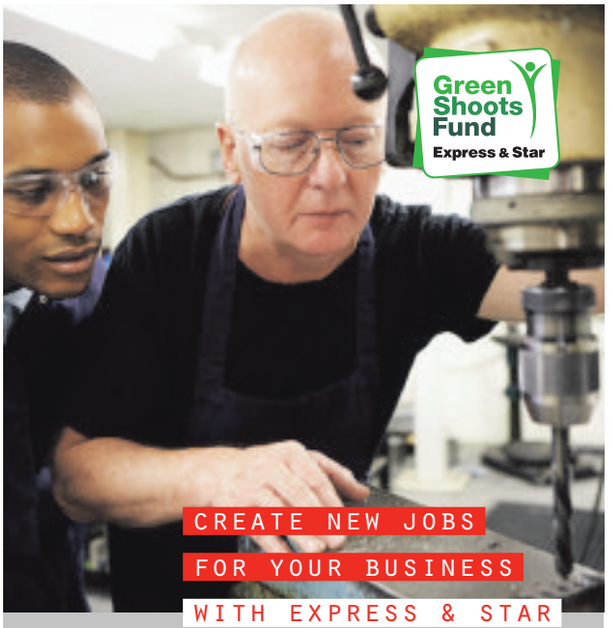

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Owners of rundown toy store in flats bid

THE owners of a long-standing eyesore property in the heart of Willenhall who were handed a hefty court bill for failing to clean it up have lodged plans to flatten it and replace it with flats.

The prosecution came after the former Dainty's toy shop, in Stafford Street, was left in a state of disrepair for more than a decade.

Plans have now been lodged to demolish the building and transform the site with 10, one-bedroom flats.

The owners were ordered to pay more than £1,285 in fines and costs at Walsall Magistrates Court last year for failing to comply with a council notice to carry out a schedule of works in a specific time frame. The flats would be built in a two storey and three storey apartment development.

Eyesore – the owners of Dainty's Toy Shop in Willenhall, who have been fined

Bicycles

A report, submitted with the planning application to Walsall Council, reads: "The majority of the property has been vacant for some considerable time. It operated most recently as a retail outlet selling children's toys, bicycles and baby carriages, with storage above and to the rear.

"Originally, it is presumed, the first floor was used as accommodation for the proprietor's family. A small annex to the main building is the only part of the building to remain in use as the office of a taxi company.

"The building appears to be in existence on the 1886-89 ordnance survey map of the area.

"It was previously used as both a house furnishers and a blacksmiths. "Since it has proved impossible to finance the refurbishment of the existing building, it is now proposed to replace it with a new building to provide low cost rented social accommodation."

There would be a single parking space provided for each property.

Owners Raj and Geeta Gupta, of Highfield Road, Dudley, both pleaded guilty to failing to carry out the necessary works on the building when they appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last year. Some of the work included removing dirt and algae, fresh painting and reinstating the gutter and drainpipes.

But the council said the couple had only carried out minimal work. In mitigation, the court heard they had unsuccessfully commissioned architects in a bid to improve the building and been let down by builders.

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In Tokyo see its most fascinating districts, including the shopping and entertainment mecca of Ginza and the Akihabara electronic town – home to one of the first stores devoted to personal robots. Then to the north of the city there's the scenic area Nikko National Park, relatively unknown outside Japan. Surrounded by breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, forests and hot springs, a visit is made to one of the country's most extraordinary shrines - dedicated to one of it's great Shogun warriors.

Kyoto, still considered to be its cultural heart has carefully retained far more of historical Japan than any other major city. With exquisite shrines, temples, Zen gardens and traditional handicrafts, the city is an absolute treasure-trove.

Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the eighth century. Here, traditional culture first took root and is famous for its great Buddhist monuments including a large bronze buddha as well as time-honoured festivals.

Hiroshima is forever destined to be synonymous with the world's first use of an atomic bomb and a visit is made to the Peace Memorial Park and museum, with the shattered remains of the nearby dome marking the epicentre of the blast.

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Kay living life to the full at 95

LADIES PROBUS

CHAIRMAN Pat Stanley welcomed everyone to the meeting at the Barns Restaurant and gave a special welcome to guest speaker Kay Mathews.

Audrey Stamford said Grace after which the ladies enjoyed their luncheon.

After the Loyal Toast Mrs Stanley welcomed Mrs Mathews who, at 95 years young gave a most amusing and interesting talk called "A Ramble through Life."

Mrs Mathews was born into an RAF family where her father had been a Regimental Sergeant Major. Kay grew up and married. She lost her husband in recent years after a very happy marriage and they reared two sons and a daughter.

Kay trained as a nurse and then helped at a family planning clinic for some years. She gave members plenty of laughs during her talk when telling them some of the stories from these years. She was also a Probation Officer for some years.

Sometime ago, Kay did a skydive to raise money for soldiers who had lost their limbs in combat. She now donates all the money she raises from giving talks to these brave young men.

Pat Preece gave the vote of thanks.

The Joint Probus Annual Lunch will take place on Wednesday, July 23 at noon for 12.30pm at the Chase Golf Club.

Cannock Chase Ladies Probus Club meets at noon on the last Thursday of each month at The Barns. Enquiries to Norma Hutchinson on 01543 505183

Wartime night proves to be a great success

Amusing tales of ex-ambulanceman

C T LADIES CLUB

AN amusing and informative talk was given by Mark Brookes to Chase Terrace ladies Club on his days in the ambulance service.

He grew up in Lichfield where his father was head gardener at Shugborough Hall working for Lord Lichfield. They were even invited to his wedding.

From there the family moved to a pub, the Gaton Hotel, and then to Great Haywood where he trained as a butcher. He completed a first aid course while working there and that led to him joining St. John's Ambulance.

He eventuallybecame an ambulance driver working from Cannock on non-emergency vehicles.

He progressed to being a technician but had to retire when he hurt his back while at work and had to have major surgery. In semi-retirement he spent six years teaching first aid.

During his career hehad the joy of delivering four babies and had the tragedy of three cot deaths.

One day he was called to the cooling towers at Rugeley Power Station. A man was up one the towers and experiencing chest pains. Mr Brooks explained to the staff they would have to bring the man down as he had no head for heights.

Mr Brookes received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for all his charity work. He was involved in creating the world record for continuous CPR at Asda in Cannock. The team completed 150 hours and raising £35,000. He still helps out at Stafford and District Stroke Club.

SHARESHILL WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed members to our own Wartime 40s Night .

The Eating Out Club met at The Elms and the village has celebrated the Church Flower Festival, which was a great success. Carol Hood did us proud with a beautiful arrangement in the WI window.

Our evening of fun started with the game Blow up Hitler, our own Susan Davidson's version of Beetle. It caused much hilarity. Prizes of bags of dolly mixtures were awarded for the first to finish and also for the best drawing of Hitler. A Second World War and 1940S quiz compiled by the president was followed by a special supper of fish paste, spam and jam sandwiches, jellies blancmanges and plain biscuits.

While we enjoyed listening to music from the 40s there was time to peruse the items which members had brought along for the exhibition of wartime memorabilia. Barbara Williams provided an interesting display of items and history concerning soldiers from the village who had fought in both world wars – many of them not returning.

Historic church is visited

LANDOR SOCIETY

ON a sunny evening in June, members visited St Lawrence's Church in Gnosall.

The Rev Mark Bridgen welcomed everyone and introduced Norman, the guide for the evening, and his wife Sheila.

Norman was able to show many features of the building and to demonstrate how the church has adapted to the changes over the years. The church has now entered its third Millennium as its foundation lies well before the year 1000AD. Following a stroll around the grounds of the church Norman showed a number of slides which gave more detail of the features he had pointed out on the outside of the building.

The tour was complete when Sheila provided tasty refreshments in the church hall. The July outing will be to Blithfield Hall.

Homeserve offers new service for help rating

HOMESERVE customers are being encouraged to 'rant and rave' about the service they have received following the introduction of a new telephone-based review service.

It is part of a major drive at the Walsall-based household insurance repairs group to improve customer service in the wake of the mis-selling scandal.

As a result, the firm was fined £30.6 million earlier this year. HomeServe, which employs around 1,200 in Walsall, has also paid refunds to thousands of customers over selling and complaints-handling issues dating back to 2005-2011.

The latest customer feedback system has been launched nationwide following a successful three-month pilot scheme at the business – which handles everything from faulty wiring to burst pipes and broken boilers – and enables customers to share their feedback on the service they have received straight after their conversation.

As soon as a customer has finished speaking to a HomeServe representative they are transferred to a recording platform and asked to answer three short questions about their experience.

By John Corser

The Coventry-based Rant & Rave business uses text analytics to identify what the customers are talking about, their sentiment and anything that HomeServe employees might need to take action on straight away.

HomeServe memberships chief marketing officer Greg Reed said: "This new service is an exciting development for the company and marks our continued commitment to listen to the feedback offered by customers.

"We take their opinions incredibly seriously and this new feedback service is a great way to ensure they are being heard. The feedback system also means that we'll be able to capture comments both good and not so good and take action where we need to."

Music event for crash casualties

The Wheatsheaf's deputy general manager Danielle Watkins, right and team member Charlie Whitehouse

A MUSIC festival is to be held by a pub raising money for two of its staff who were seriously injured in a car crash.

Ashley Jones and Nicola Price were involved in a collision between their silver Vauxhall Corsa and a Citroen Berlingo van near the Churchbridge island in Cannock.

Both were taken to hospital in critical conditions but friends now said Mr Jones, 22, has been discharged with serious injuries while Miss Price remains in hospital.

The pair work at The Wheatsheaf, in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, where the festival will be held on July 19. It will be the second year the pub has put on the 'Party in the Car Park' event. Four bands will perform between 2pm and 9pm before an acoustic act continues the music inside the bar. There will also be a raffle.

Deputy general manager Danielle Wilkins, 34, said: "We held this event last year and Ash and Nicola were involved in arranging it for this year. What has happened has shocked us and we thought we would use the event to raise

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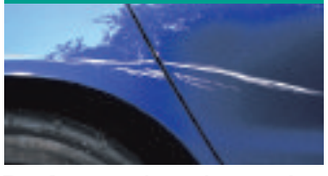
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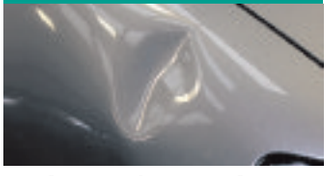

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Every minute, someone somewhere becomes another potential customer for Matt Williams, Bloxwich based operator for ChipsAway International, leading 'on-the-spot' automotive paint repair specialists. Think about it. Whether it's a stone thrown up from the road, the key scraping against your car door, or an out of control shopping trolley clipping your paintwork in the car park on a busy Saturday morning – and we've all been there - chips, bumps and minor scuffs are part and parcel of being a car owner.

Unsurprising then that recent research has confirmed that the majority of the 32 million cars in the UK are in need of attention to their paintwork and that most drivers would love to find a quick, cost-effective and convenient way of repairing their minor paint damage. After all, nobody wants the expense and inconvenience of booking their car into a body shop for small jobs. Industry experts also advise that keeping car paintwork up to scratch will extend the life of your vehicle and improve its value when you eventually look to sell.

"As the AA points out, it's a smart move, to get your car repaired if you have any form of minor damage to your paintwork," advises Matt Williams, Bloxwich. "Whether a scratch, scuff, chip or dent, a cosmetic repair will not only make sure your car looks good, but will seal the area of damage, making it weatherproof and prevent rust setting in.

If you leave it, the rust will eventually lead to corrosion which could ultimately result in a more extensive – and expensive – repair!"

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Today ChipsAway has over 300 UK operators, between them repairing some 300,000 vehicles per year.

For a free estimate with no obligation please contact Matt Williams on 0800 028 7878

CHOICE

Ben Shephard

Tipping Point: Lucky Stars (ITV, 7.30pm)
We know what you're thinking: where can we find a show that will fill a dead hour on a Saturday night? One that will hopefully feature Carol Vorderman, that bloke who plays Emmerdale's Marlon Dingle, and if we're really lucky, I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! veteran Joe Swash? Well, the search ends here as soap star Mark Charnock and all of the above will be taking part in the strangely addictive, Penny Falls-style show. There's a cool £20,000 up for grabs for one of the celebs' chosen charities, but which of them will be able to ensure the most amount of counters fall? The answer will be revealed before the end of the show by host Ben Shephard.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Wimbledon 2014. The ladies' singles final. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.30 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Team GB gold medal-winner Lizzy Yarnold, former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan, and comedians Katherine Ryan and Ted Robbins take part in the sports-based game show.

8.10 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants take part in several question-and-answer sessions in a bid to be the last duo standing. The winners have the chance to play for the money in the safe – with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. But they're not the only ones who could end up with a small fortune, as Kate Garraway presents tonight's Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.00 Casualty. A man ignores Ethan's advice to take it easy after a car accident, putting himself and his son in danger during a cross-country race. Connie asserts her authority over the ED.

9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll as a doting mother-of-six who constantly interferes in her children's lives. (R)

10.20 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.40 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican introduces routines by comedians Steve Hughes and Russell Kane at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

11.30 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. The third and fourth quarter-finals. Action from Brazil, featuring the matches at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia and the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador.

12.10 Film: DOA. (1988) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News. **1.15** Wimbledon 2014. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.40** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.00** A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. **7.40** The National Lottery: Break the Safe. **8.30** Match of the Day Live.

BBC2

7.30 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **8.15** Formula 1: British Grand Prix Second Practice. **9.55** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix Third Practice. Lee McKenzie introduces coverage of the session from Silverstone, where the ninth meeting of the season takes place. **11.05** Racing Legends: Jackie Stewart. (R) **12.05** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix Qualifying. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where the grid positions are decided for the ninth meeting of the season. **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Wimbledon 2014. Sue Barker presents further live coverage from the All England Club, featuring the men's and ladies' doubles finals. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

8.00 Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale and guests look back at highlights of the ladies' singles final at the All England Club, where the third Grand Slam title of the year was set to be decided. Plus, a preview of the men's singles final and action from the men's and ladies' doubles finals.

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies on the comedy quiz. Host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions on the topic of keeps, with points being awarded for interesting answers as well as correct ones. (R)

9.45 Film: Last Chance Harvey. (2008) A miserable New Yorker travels to London for his estranged daughter's wedding, but is devastated to find his ex-wife's new husband is to give the bride away instead of him. While trying to return home, he bumps into a woman feeling equally unfulfilled in her life, and their fledgling romance inspires them both to face up to their problems. Romantic drama, with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

11.10 Film: A Single Man. (2009) A gay academic mourning his partner's death takes a day to put his affairs in order as he prepares to commit suicide. Drama set in the 1960s, with Colin Firth and Julianne Moore.

12.45 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. Action from one of the concluding two quarter-finals, which took place at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia and the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador. **2.30** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.30** Tour de France Live. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Off Their Rockers. A pensioner attempts a daredevil escape from a care home. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Carol Vorderman, Mark Charnock and Joe Swash answer questions to win turns on the token-pushing machine and raise money for charity. Ben Shephard hosts.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. The fourth quarter-final (Kick-off 9.00pm). Coverage from the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil, where the line-up for the semi-finals is confirmed. Eventual champions Spain were the final team to secure a place in the last four in 2010, but the Spanish will not be involved this time around, as their exit from the competition was confirmed after just two matches, when a 2-0 defeat against Chile followed a humiliating 5-1 thrashing at the hands of the team they beat in the final four years ago, the Netherlands. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Film: Fletch. (1985) A wisecracking reporter and master of disguise investigates a man who falsely claims to be dying and is asking people to kill him. Comedy mystery, with Chevy Chase.

1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. **10.30** Tour de France Live. **3.45** ITV News; Weather. **4.00** FIFA World Cup Live 2014. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.10** ITV News London; Weather. **7.15** ITV News; Weather. **7.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. **8.30** Midsomer Murders. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.50** The Tomorrow People. **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Country enthusiast Susan Rogers hosts the final dinner party in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, hoping her French cuisine will win her extra points. She also demonstrates her skills with an accordion and gives her guests an origami masterclass, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.10 Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. (2009) The war between the shape-shifting robots erupts once again, as the first of the evil Decepticons leads an attack on Earth to locate an ancient planet-destroying machine. Hapless teenager Sam Witwicky is once again caught in the middle as he holds the key to discovering the location of the device. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox.

10.00 Film: Attack the Block. (2011) A student nurse and a teenage gang band together to fight off alien invaders terrorising a south London tower block. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittaker and John Boyega.

11.40 Paul Chowdhry: What's Happening White People? Stand-up show in which the comedian entertains an audience with his dry observational humour tapping into aspects of modern-day Britain. (R)

12.40 Film: The Last Exorcism. (2010) Horror, starring Patrick Fabian. **2.10** The Guides. Short drama, starring Mark Gatiss. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly discovers the identity of Cindy's mystery man, the McQueens find out whether they will be evicted, and Dennis tries to coax Blessing out of the house. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.30** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Revamping the kitchen and dining room of a home in Kent. (R) **5.50** The Hoobs. The gang breaks a record. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **11.05** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.25 Film:** Random Hearts. (1999) Romantic drama, with Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas. **3.00 Film:** Anzio. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Robert Mitchum. **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20 Film:** Columbo: Suitable for Framing. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.40 Film: Columbo: Murder by the Book. (1971) An author of mystery novels kills his former writing partner so he can claim sole credit for their collaborations, and tries to appear innocent by offering to help Columbo solve the crime. Detective drama, directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Peter Falk, Jack Cassidy, Rosemary Forsyth and Barbara Colby.

8.00 She's 78, He's 39: Age Gap Love. Six people whose partners are much younger than they are reveal why being of different generations is no barrier to romance. Marilyn's relationship with husband William began when she was 45 and he was 16 and was tested from the start by abuse from friends and neighbours, while Edna (78) and Simon (39) bonded over their mutual love of organ music. Mike (74) is coping with an eight-week-old baby alongside wife Lindsey, who is 41 years his junior, while 58-year-old Gary enjoys clubbing in Ibiza with his spouse Kate, who is half his age. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

10.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits South Yorkshire, where benefits caps, sanctions and the bedroom tax are hitting those at the poorer end of society. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Top Gear **8.30 Film:** Meet the Parents (2000) **10.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.00** Family Guy **1.20** American Dad! **2.00** Live at the Electric **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** The Beatles' Please Please Me – Remaking a Classic **11.45** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **12.45** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.25** Sounds of the Eighties **2.00** Lost Land of the Tiger **3.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out **12.10** I Wanna Marry "Harry" **1.05** The Only Way Is Essex **2.40** You've Been Framed! **4.15 Film:** Valiant (2005) **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00 Film:** Something Borrowed (2011) **10.15 Film:** The Matrix (1999) **1.00** The Magaluf Weekender **1.50** Crazy Beaches **2.40** The Hot Desk – Example **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.50 Lewis **2.55** Housewife, 49 **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Wycliffe **12.15** Bomb Girls **1.10** Murder, She Wrote **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
5.00 Motorway Patrol **5.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Hornblower **10.10 Film:** Raging Bull (1980) **12.50** Tour de France Highlights **1.50** Alias Smith and Jones **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Rude(ish) Tube **2.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00 Film:** Sanctum (2011) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** Rude Tube **12.45** 2 Broke Girls **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.00** Glee **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 Cry Havoc (1943) **1.00** Home Alone 3 (1997) **3.00** Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.50** Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1986) **7.20** Zoolander (2001) **9.00** Conan the Barbarian (1982) Fantasy adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.35** Secretary (2002) Comedy drama, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal. **1.45** Angel Heart (1987) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Nico Mirallegro

Common (BBC1, 9pm)
One-off drama from Jimmy McGovern, exploring the possible consequences of the UK's Joint Enterprise law, by which more than one person can be charged with the same offence. Seventeen-year-old Johnjo gives his cousin Tony and some friends a lift to a pizza parlour for food, unaware their real intention is to 'sort out' a local loudmouth. Things soon get out of hand, however, and an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and despite being in the car all the time, Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else. Nico Mirallegro heads a cast that also includes Susan Lynch, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Samantha Oliver, Robert Pugh, Philip Hill Pearson and Michelle Fairley.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2014. Sue Barker and guests look ahead to this afternoon's men's singles final. **1.50** Wimbledon 2014. Live coverage of the men's singles final. **5.45** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.10 Countryfile. John Craven visits the Peak District set of BBC drama The Village. Helen Skelton discovers the links between the area and the British Raj, and gets tips on capturing animal photos. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.10 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team pay a second visit to Wentworth Woodhouse, where items include a bible that belonged to the first black professional footballer. Last in the series.

8.10 Casualty. A man ignores Ethan's advice to take it easy after a car accident, putting himself and his son in danger during a cross-country race. Connie asserts her authority over the ED. (R)

9.00 Common. One-off drama from Jimmy McGovern, exploring the possible consequences of the UK's Joint Enterprise law, by which more than one person can be charged with the same offence. Seventeen-year-old Johnjo gives his cousin Tony and some friends a lift to a pizza parlour for food, unaware their real intention is to "sort out" a local loudmouth. Things soon get out of hand, however, and an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and despite being in the car all the time, Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else. Nico Mirallegro heads a cast that also includes Susan Lynch, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Robert Pugh and Michelle Fairley.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.55 Regional Programme.

11.25 Film: Sliding Doors. (1998) A London woman's entire future hinges on a seemingly minor but pivotal moment. Comedy drama, starring Gwyneth Paltrow.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

1.50 Wimbledon 2014. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.00** Countryfile. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. **9.00** Common.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **7.40** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** World Cup Films. **9.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.00** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Racing Legends: Stirling Moss. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.05** Songs of Praise: Big Sing – The UK's Top 10 Hymns. **5.45** Wimbledon 2014. The mixed doubles final.

8.00 The Quest for Bannockburn. Part one of two. Neil Oliver and Tony Pollard conclude their attempt to mark the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn by pinpointing the location of Scotland's most iconic battlefield. They are joined by historians, archaeologists and environmental scientists as they gather evidence to chart the events that ended in Robert the Bruce's overwhelming victory over the English that helped seal Scotland's future as an independent kingdom.

9.00 A Cabbie Abroad: Fiji. London cabbie Mason McQueen heads to the South Pacific island of Fiji to ply his trade in the capital Suva, where he is shown the ropes by his host Dharmendra Kumar – a direct descendant of sugar plantation labourers brought from India by the British. Mason teams up with the doorman of a local hotel to sample the indigenous way of life, undergoing an ancient ritual that involves drinking a narcotic brew made from a local root, and going spearfishing.

10.00 Mock the Week. Rob Beckett, Susan Calman, Hal Cruttenden and Romesh Ranganathan join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O Briain hosts. (R)

10.35 Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale presents highlights of the men's singles final at the All England Club, where the winner of the third Grand Slam event of the year was decided.

11.35 Film: Heavenly Creatures. (1994) Fact-based drama about two teenagers whose obsessive friendship and strange fantasies drive them to murder. Directed by Peter Jackson and starring Kate Winslet and Melanie Lynskey.

1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.30** Tour de France Live. **5.00** Tipping Point. (R)

6.00 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Film: Despicable Me. (2010) A criminal mastermind hopes to seal his reputation as the greatest villain of them all by stealing the moon. First he needs to get his hands on a shrinking ray owned by a rival evil genius, and adopts three orphan girls to help him – but finds that fatherhood brings out his long-buried caring side. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand and Julie Andrews.

9.00 The Nation's Favourite Motown Song. From Dancing in the Street to I Heard It Through the Grapevine, Motown produced some era-defining music that still proves popular today. In this 90-minute special, Craig Charles counts down the Detroit record company's greatest hits, as voted for by the British public. Founded by Berry Gordy in 1959, the legendary label launched the careers of superstars such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 The Cube. A builder and a 24-year-old mother take part, aiming to complete tasks within the confines of the cube to win a jackpot of £250,000. Hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R)

11.45 The Unforgettable Russell Harty. Profile of the chat-show host who became a household name in the 1970s and 80s for his staging of some revealing celebrity interviews as Michael Parkinson's main rival. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** British F3. **7.10** Snowdonia Slateman Triathlon. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00 Film:** A Knight's Tale. (2001) Medieval comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger.

7.35 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Film: Johnny English Reborn. (2011) Premiere. A bumbling secret agent retires to a Tibetan monastery in disgrace after a mission goes wrong. He is lured out of seclusion by the chance to redeem himself when his former bosses seek his help in foiling an attempt to assassinate the premier of China. Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson, Gillian Anderson, Rosamund Pike and Dominic West.

10.00 Sean Lock: Purple Van Man. The 8 Out of 10 Cats team captain's stand-up show, recorded in front of a sell-out audience at London's Hammersmith Apollo last year.

11.00 Film: Get Him to the Greek. (2010) A record company employee is given the dubious task of escorting a manic, sex-crazed British rock star to his comeback concert. Comedy, starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.

12.55 Film: This Boy's Life. (1993) A teenager suffers abuse when his mother marries a man who turns out to be a tyrannical thug. Drama set in the 1950s, with Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ellen Barkin. **2.50** Swimming. A mother and her daughter try to bond. (R) **3.05** A SuperScrimpers' Merry Christmas. Mrs Moneypenny presents advice on a frugal Christmas, including home-made decorations and booze, how to avoid dodgy online deals and producing a festive buffet for 20 for just £50. (R) **4.00** Beat My Build. Amanda Lamb and Laura Hamilton challenge two builders to out-do each other in a property renovation contest, beginning with a pair of contractors in Surrey. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Creating plates to complement a 1930s-style dining room. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes. (R) **5.55** Countdown. With Griff Rhys Jones. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Big Brother. (R) **11.30** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **12.30 Film:** Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart. **2.15 Film:** Space Jam. (1996) Live action and animated comedy, with Michael Jordan. **3.55 Film:** A Goofy Movie. (1995) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Farmer. **5.20 Film:** The Fox and the Hound. (1981)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Film: Rush Hour. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: Lethal Weapon 4. (1998) The mismatched LAPD detectives hunt down the head of a Chinese triad involved in forgery and slave trading. Action adventure, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Rene Russo. Edited for language.

12.25 World's Scariest Plane Landings. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** One World Trade Centre: Rebuilt. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Tron: Legacy (2010) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Murdered By My Boyfriend **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Giving Up My Baby **3.00** Live at the Electric **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Sounds of the Sixties **7.35 Film:** A Hard Day's Night (1964) **9.00** The Lance Armstrong Story – Stop at Nothing: Storyville **10.40** Storyville: Velorama **11.40** The Richest Songs in the World **1.10** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **2.10** The Lance Armstrong Story – Stop at Nothing: Storyville **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.40 America's Got Talent **2.30** You've Been Framed! Family Special **3.15 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **5.00 Film:** Valiant (2005) **6.30 Film:** Pearl Harbor (2001) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** TV OD **11.20 Film:** The Matrix Reloaded (2003) **1.55** Best of You've Been Framed! **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.20 Film: Goodbye, Mr Chips (1969) **1.25** A Touch of Frost **3.40** Lewis **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Wycliffe **11.05 Film:** Dial M for Murder (1954) **1.20** William and Mary **2.10** Murder, She Wrote **3.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **4.25** Emmerdale

ITV4
5.00 Duck Dynasty **5.55** Alias Smith and Jones **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00** Benidorm **10.00 Film:** How I Spent My Summer Vacation (2012) **12.00** From Ronaldo to Ronaldo **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30** The Mindy Project **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory **10.40** Rude Tube **11.40** How I Met Your Mother **12.10** New Girl **12.40** Rules of Engagement **1.40** The Cleveland Show **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Enemy Below (1957) **1.00** The Phantom (1996) **2.50** Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) **5.00** Rio (2011) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Unstoppable (2010) **10.55** Sliver (1993) **1.00** Wuthering Heights (2011) **3.40** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY
The Armstrong Lie, Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary following cycling champion Lance Armstrong's fall from grace. Film-maker Alex Gibney was initially commissioned to follow the cyclist as he prepared to make a professional comeback by competing in the Tour de France, only to find himself documenting an unprecedented scandal. (2014)

TUESDAY
hattered Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A grieving mother wants to understand why her teenage daughter committed suicide, and is shocked to discover she had been subjected to a campaign of bullying. However, as she goes in search of the culprits, she starts receiving anonymous threats and realises there is more to this tragedy than anyone suspects. Drama, starring Liz Vassey and Jenn Proske. (2012)

WEDNESDAY
A Woman Betrayed, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A single mother starts a new relationship with a seemingly perfect man, only to learn he has kept his real identity a secret from her – he is actually the married preacher of a popular church. When his wealthy wife is murdered, she becomes a suspect and faces having her son taken away from her. Crime drama, starring Sarah Lancaster and Drew Waters. (2013)

Senna, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
A Soldier's Love Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A sergeant in the US Army serving in Afghanistan becomes a father figure to a lonely boy who writes to him from California. When the soldier returns from his tour of duty, he visits the youngster and begins to develop a relationship with the lad's divorced mother. Romantic drama, with Lori Loughlin and Johnny Messner. (2010)

FRIDAY
Senna, ITV, 10.35pm
Documentary about the life of Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, examining his achievements on the track over a 10-year period that saw him crowned world champion three times, until his death in a crash during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix. Featuring rare footage from the F1 archives and contributions from fellow racing stars including Jackie Stewart. (2010)
Hamlet 2, BBC2, 11.05pm
A failed actor gets a job as a high-school drama teacher to make ends meet. When he learns his course is to be cut from the curriculum, he tries to save it by putting on a spectacular stage production – a self-penned musical sequel to Shakespeare's tragedy. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Catherine Keener. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Johnjo falls foul of the Joint Enterprise law

There are just a handful of writers working in British TV whose name makes viewers sit up and take notice. Arguably at the front of that list is Jimmy McGovern, who began his small screen career by penning episodes of Brookside, which was set in his home city of Liverpool.

Since then he's won numerous plaudits for such acclaimed programmes as Cracker, The Lakes, The Street, Hillsborough, Sunday and Accused.

Now McGovern is back with Common, a one-off, feature-length drama that is sure provoke plenty of chat around watercoolers across the nation – and may even spark further debate in more lofty settings.

Like much of his previous work, it's set in the north west of England. At the centre of the tale is Common Purpose, a 300-year-old legal doctrine that allows several people to be charged with a crime where they are not the primary offenders.

It has been increasingly used in the last 10 years to tackle crimes, often murder, which are deemed to be gang-related.

"Joint Enterprise was first used in Britain's courts a few hundred years ago," explains McGovern. "It was designed to stop the aristocracy duelling. If one duelist killed another then all involved in that duel (the seconds and the surgeons) were charged with murder. It worked. Britain's aristocrats stopped duelling.

"Now the law is being used against Britain's youth. If someone dies in a fight and you're involved in any way whatsoever, you could find yourself charged with murder. And, if you do, Heaven help you because the burden of proof required in joint enterprise cases is frighteningly low."

The BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, adds: "Common is an ambitious and controversial film. Much in the same way as Hillsborough and Sunday, Jimmy wanted to write this film after talking to the families of those directly affected by the joint enterprise law.

"We believe it is right for the BBC to give writers such as Jimmy an opportunity to tell a story like this, and to allow the audience to make up their own minds about it."

McGovern has certainly attracted a great cast – the likes of Nico Mirallegro, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Robert Pugh, Michael Gambon and Michelle Fairley.

"When it comes to casting you always have a 'wish list' – a list of actors who'd be perfect for the parts you have written," says McGovern.

"You never get them of course. They're often too busy or away on holiday or they hate the script or whatever. But on this occasion, I got them all, every single one on my wish list. And I am over the moon."

The Village star Mirallegro heads the cast as 17-year-old Johnjo, who gives his cousin Tony and some mates a lift, supposedly so they can get a pizza.

But what Johnjo is totally unaware of is their real intention is to confront somebody they've had an argument with earlier.

Things soon get out of hand – and in the ensuing melee, an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and despite being in the car all the time, Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else.

Nico Mirallegro stars in Common, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Scotland: For Richer or Poorer?
BBC2, 9pm
September 18: remember the date. It's the day on which the people of Scotland decide whether Scotland should be an independent country. There's been a lot of crystal ball-gazing recently, as people on both sides of the divide attempt to predict whether an independent Scotland would be a good or a bad thing. BBC economics editor Robert Peston looks at all the evidence in a bid to find out whether an independent Scotland and its people would truly be better off.

John Bishop's Australia
BBC1, 9pm
New series. In 1992, the 25-year-old John Bishop rode a bicycle through Australia and back to Liverpool. But having spent all day on the road, he always felt he missed out on so much of the country he rode through. Now he returns to retrace his journey Down Under, using his original diary as a guidebook, meeting a range of extraordinary characters and experiencing true natural wonders.

TUESDAY
Embarrassing Bodies
Channel 4, 9pm
The docs return tonight in a series that sees them take on their most challenging cases yet, beginning with young dad Dan, who discusses a large hole in his face with Dr Christian. Jaya speaks to Dr Dawn about her voice after an unusual condition distorted her voicebox, and Dr Pixie sees a woman looking for help with some childhood burns.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
Channel 5, 9pm
A homeless man goes on a winning streak at a casino that nets him $350,000, but his luck runs out when he is later found apparently stabbed to death in an alley. After scouring the crime scene for clues, the team learns the victim recently visited a pawn shop, where the investigators discover his winnings hidden in a speaker taken in by a security guard from the casino.

WEDNESDAY
Brand New House for 5K
Channel 5, 8pm
Seven years ago, Caroline and Sean bought a three-bedroomed semi-detached house. With a drab master bedroom, dominated by a huge, brown, built-in wardrobe, it has little appeal, while the main room downstairs features a grown-up area for eating at one end and a kids' den at the other. To keep costs down, Linda Barker and her team re-use the carcasses of the kitchen cupboards and the master bedroom and change the doors. Can Linda stay within budget, and cure the couple of their DIY phobia?

This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show
Channel 4, 8pm
In Doncaster, Dawn O'Porter faces tough opposition from vintage-hater Liza, who's not afraid of spending a small fortune on one-off, bold fashion statements to help her stand out from the crowd. However, she's worried that she dresses like her teenage daughter and wants a more grown-up style. Armed with a few devious devices, can Dawn persuade Liza that old is just as good as new? Plus, the sewing workshop transforms a pair of jeans that have seen better days, and a look into the archives reveals how the flared trouser was born.

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
Channel 4, 8pm
George Clarke is a busy fella. Not only does he front Restoration Man and Amazing Spaces, he's also got a new series coming up soon about sheds. So how does he find the time to work on his projects? Simple – he persuades his mate Will to take them on, and films their progress as part of this series. We'll get a chance to see how the master carpenter is getting on with George's garden room this week. But of most interest are the latest builds. One involves two brothers who are turning a narrow boat into a bachelor pad with help from online tutorials, and a police officer who wants to convert an old campervan and caravan into a mobile cream tea business.

The Million Pound Drop, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

The Honourable Woman
BBC2, 9pm
With the hunt on for Atika's son, Hayden-Hoyle starts to investigate who killed Meshal and why, but his enquiries are blocked by his boss Dame Julia Walsh on the instructions of the CIA, and the MI6 chief directs his attention elsewhere. Meanwhile, as more of her past is uncovered, Nessa receives a mysterious phone call from a man who threatens to divulge secrets from the period when she and Atika were kidnapped eight years previously in Gaza. Political thriller written and directed by Hugo Blick, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Stephen Rea and Janet McTeer.

FRIDAY
Coronation Street
ITV, 7.30pm
If Rob's tired of walking on eggshells by now, he can probably rest assured that soon enough, his murderous ways will out. As Tracy adores her new charm bracelet, Rob is taken a back to realise that it's the same jewellery he stole from Tina and Steph's flat. Meanwhile, Marcus is suspended from work for taking too much time off.

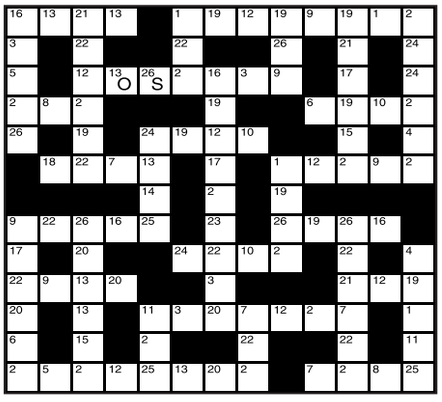
The Million Pound Drop
Channel 4, 8pm
Davina McCall returns with the quiz show in which contestants try to stop wads of cash falling through trapdoors by correctly – and quickly – answering a series of questions. For the 13th series, each edition features a themed game, from a blind-date drop to a workplace special, and more well-known faces take on the challenge for good causes.

Brain Gym

No.280

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



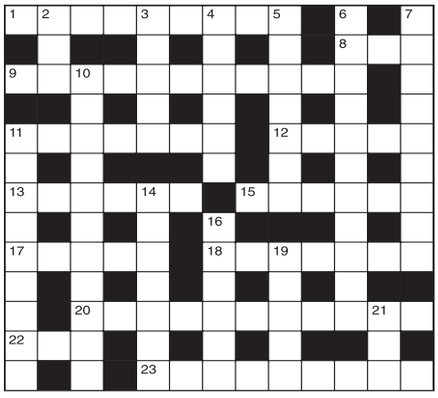
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 O	26 S

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 G	2 I	3 W	4 S	5 R	6 P	7 X	8 E	9 Y	10 V	11 Q	12 M	13 H
14 O	15 Z	16 C	17 F	18 A	19 B	20 U	21 L	22 N	23 T	24 K	25 J	26 D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Passenger-carrying flight (9)
8. Scottish name in a new form (3)
9. Making it she'll toil to work on the land (4,3,4)
11. Many stampeded and were injured (7)
12. It helps to make a cake enticing (5)
13. Charm, possibly earned (6)
15. Things to be done in company (6)
17. A pronounced similarity (5)
18. Assign work to a writer (7)
20. Vessels that liven up parties (3-8)
22. I leave the earth for the sun (3)
23. Thought someone guilty or was doubtful (9)

Down

2. It will be in most winter sportsmen's kit (3)
3. May get a lift when you come in (5)
4. Takes steps to make wine? (6)
5. Go in for modified coverage (7)
6. Moving experience for one who takes a back seat (7,4)
7. What you have to do to become one (9)
10. The price of cleanliness? (7,4)
11. Gloomy supporters will, if their team's doing badly (9)
14. Eternal theme of the beautician (7)
16. Such chaplains may be spared (6)
19. Engrave a hunting scene? (5)
21. Kind of bread found in every English home (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Workable (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Plundering (11)
11. Respire (7)
12. Superior (5)
13. Beast (6)
15. Save (6)
17. Fool (5)
18. Insult (7)
20. Diligently (11)
22. Speck (3)
23. Artifice (9)

Down

2. Fish-eggs (3)
3. Handle (5)
4. Cowardly (6)
5. Free time (7)
6. Glaring (11)
7. Burial (9)
10. Hasty (11)
11. Supreme happiness (9)
14. Swears (7)
16. Stray (6)
19. Swim (5)
21. Rest (3)

Sudoku

		3				9		5
		2	3		8		1	
7	6						2	3
	4			5			7	
6		8	9			5		1
	2		4	1			8	
2	9				3		5	6
			6		1			
		6				1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	9	3	4	6	8	5	2
3	4	8	1	2	5	7	6	9
2	5	6	7	9	8	4	1	3
7	3	1	4	6	9	5	2	8
6	2	5	8	3	1	9	7	4
9	8	4	2	5	7	6	3	1
5	1	3	9	7	4	2	8	6
4	6	2	5	8	3	1	9	7
8	9	7	6	1	2	3	4	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Outcry; 8 Drover; 10 Trainee; 11 Force; 12 Asti; 13 Eject; 17 Award; 18 Last; 22 Staff; 23 Evasion; 24 Dearly; 25 Debase. Down: 1 Post-bag; 2 Stealth; 3 Prone; 4 Preface; 5 Ivory; 6 Brief; 9 New Jersey; 14 Twofold; 15 Capital; 16 Stunted; 19 Aside; 20 Madam; 21 Later. QUICK - Across: 7 Needle; 8 Potent; 10 Educate; 11 Twice; 12 Site; 13 Quack; 17 Pinch; 18 Tale; 22 About; 23 Retract; 24 Return; 25 Seller. Down: 1 Incense; 2 Requite; 3 Plead; 4 Contact; 5 Tepid; 6 Steep; 9 Sepulchre; 14 Disturb; 15 Capable; 16 Restore; 19 Marry; 20 Worth; 21 Otter.

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Eastbourne	£159.95
Downton Abbey & Bournemouth	£299.95
Felixstowe, Clacton & Suffolk Coast	£199.95
Pontins Pakefield	£189.95
Yarmouth	£169.95
4 DAY TOURS FRI 25 JUL	
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Stonehenge & Bournemouth	£179.95
Torquay	£129.95
Weston-s-Mare	£129.95
Isle of Wight	£129.95
Eastbourne	£129.95
Bournemouth	£149.95
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5 DAY TOURS MON 28 JUL	
Newquay	£189.95
Torquay	£179.95
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£160,000

W-TON RD WEST, BENTLEY
Well Presented Four Bed Semi Detached Property Having Lounge, Stylish Breakfast Kitchen, 'P' Shaped Conservatory, Three Bedrooms To The First Floor, Bathroom With Separate Steam Shower, Bedroom Four To The Second Floor, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & Driveway.
£169,995

LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION
Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/ Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.
£189,995

Willenhall 01902 606595 www.prestige-estatesuk.com

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DPS

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ESTATE AGENTS

Successfully letting homes across the Midlands, Black Country & Staffordshire for over 35 years

EPC: D

WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE
● Restored large Edwardian semi detached villa ● Two double bedrooms ● Two reception rooms ● Fitted kitchen & utility ● Bathroom & guest wc ● Off road parking
£450 PCM

EPC: D

WALSALL
WREXHAM AVUENUE
● Traditional style semi detached property ● Refitted kitchen & bathroom ● Gas c/heating & double glazing ● Three bedrooms ● Enclosed rear garden
£475.00 PCM

EPC: E

BILSTON
ST CHADS ROAD
● Traditional style detached bungalow ● Two bedrooms ● Dining kitchen ● Shower room ● C/heating & d/glazing ● Enclosed rear garden ● Off road parking for one car
£500 PCM

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WE URGENTLY REQUIRE PROPERTIES IN WALSALL & BLOXWICH

CALL SARAH PARKES
(LETTINGS CO-ORDINATOR)
ON 01922 478104

NEW

EPC D

WEDNESFIELD
PARRY ROAD
● Three bedroom semi detached ● Modern kitchen ● Two reception rooms ● Utility room ● Family bathroom & separate toilet ● Off road parking ● Enclosed rear
£575.00 PCM

NEW

EPC: Tbc

WEDNESFIELD
DEYNCOURT ROAD
● Traditional style semi detached property ● Three bedrooms ● Lounge & dining room ● C/heating & d/glazing ● Fitted kitchen ● Bathroom ● Garage & off road parking
£560.00 PCM

LET

EPC: F

WEDNESFIELD
VICTORIA ROAD
● Refurbished detached property ● Three bedrooms ● Refitted kitchen ● d/glazing & c/heating ● Conservatory ● Refitted bathroom ● Garage & off road parking
£600 PCM

TENANTS!
OUR APPLICATION FEES ARE ONLY **£150 PLUS VAT** THAT COVERS UP TO THREE APPLICANTS!
A SECURITY DEPOSIT EQUIVALENT TO 6 WEEKS OF THE RENT IS REQUIRED

EPC D

WEST BROMWICH
GREETS GREEN ROAD
●Attractive modernised mid terraced ● Two bedrooms ●G/central heating ●D/glazing ● Modern kitchen & bathroom ● Newly fitted carpets ● Lounge ● Sitting room ● Yard
£475.00 PCM

EPC: D

WOLVERHAMPTON
BUSHBURY ROAD
● Spacious semi detached ● Three bedrooms ● Two reception rooms ● Fitted kitchen & utility ● C/heating & part d/glazing ● Rear garden & driveway
£575 PCM

LET

EPC: D

WEDNESFIELD
WIMBORNE ROAD
● Beautiful semi detached ● Three bedrooms ● Refitted dining kitchen ● Refitted bathroom ● UPVC d/glazing ● Gas c/heating ● Large rear garden, ● Off road parking
£625 PCM

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Property Auction

Monday 7th July 2014
7:00pm Prompt
At the Premier Suite, Bar Sport
High Green, Cannock

Address	Saturday 14th, 21st & 28th June, 5th July	Wednesday 18th & 25th June, 2nd July
16 Hardie Avenue, Rugeley	10.00am	10.00am
45 Bow St, Rugeley	10.30am	10.30am
7 Foster Avenue, Hednesford	11.15am	11.15am
91 Hill Street, Hednesford	11.45am	11.45am
44 & 44a High Street, Chase Town	12.30pm	12.30pm
~~2a Middleton Avenue, Brownhills~~ SOLD PRIOR TO AUCTION	~~1.15pm~~	~~1.15pm~~
57 Croxdene Avenue, Bloxwich	2.15pm	2.15pm
54 New Penkridge Rd, Cannock	3.00pm	3.00pm
Land adj. 2 Rowan Rd, Cannock	By calling on site with auction catalogue to hand	

01543 505454
AUCTION CATALOGUE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD
www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1
7 FOSTER AVENUE, HEDNESFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Traditional detached house
◆ Standing on a generous plot
◆ Requiring comprehensive renovation and refurbishment
◆ Benefiting from some double glazing
◆ EPC rating 1
Guide price £85,000+

LOT 2
16 HARDIE AVENUE, PEAR TREE ESTATE, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached house◆ In popular residential area◆ Benefiting from partial double glazing and partial gas central heating◆ EPC rating 56
GUIDE PRICE £60,000 - £70,000

LOT 3
44 & 44A HIGH STREET, CHASE TOWN
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Ideal buy to let
◆ Prominently located detached building comprising ground floor shop with spacious self contained flat above ◆ Rear car parking
◆ Planning permission for conversion of shop to a two bedroom apartment (Lichfield District Council Reference 12/00073/COU)
◆ EPC rating 51 - Non domestic EPC band E
GUIDE PRICE £95,000

LOT 4
57 CROXDENE AVENUE, BLOXWICH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached house
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Gas fired central heating
◆ Ideal buy to let
◆ EPC rating 59
GUIDE PRICE £90,000 - £100,000

LOT 5
91 HILL STREET, HEDNESFORD
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Semi detached house
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
◆ In need of comprehensive renovation/refurbishment
◆ EPC rating 38
GUIDE PRICE £40,000-£50,000

LOT 6
2A MIDDLETON ROAD, BROWNHILLS
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached house ◆ 3 bedrooms
◆ Gas central heating ◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ Standing on a good sized plot for owner occupation or may be suitable for redevelopment (subject to planning permission being obtained)
◆ EPC rating 59
GUIDE PRICE £160,000 - £180,000

LOT 7
45 BOW STREET, RUGELEY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Listed building offering extensive accommodation on three floors having been more recently used as pub/club with ancillary and living accommodation on upper floors and courtyard
◆ Possible development opportunity
◆ EPC non domestic Band E
GUIDE PRICE £190,000-£225,000

LOT 8
BUILDING PLOT SHOAL HILL
LAND ADJ. 2 ROWAN ROAD, CANNOCK
Freehold With Vacant Possession
◆ Individual residential building plot with benefit of planning permission for erection of a detached residential bungalow◆ The plot adjoins the Shoal Hill district of Cannock Chase

LOT 9
54 NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION
◆ Detached house of character
◆ Three bedrooms
◆ Gas fired central heating (Not tested)
◆ Predominantly double glazed
◆ In need of improvement /refurbishment
◆ Located in much sought after residential area of the town
GUIDE PRICE £175,000-£200,000

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC: C

TURNBERRY ESTATE, BLOXWICH
MOOR PARK

- MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME OFFERING EXTENDED ACCOMMODATION SITUATED IN A SECLUDED LOCATION WITH OPEN VIEWS TO THE FRONT ASPECT
- THREE BEDROOMS
- EXTENDED LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM, FITTED KITCHEN
- GARAGE, FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

£210,000 OFFERS

MANAGERS CHOICE

NEW

EPC: -

BLOXWICH
ELMORE GREEN ROAD

- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TERRACED STYLE PROPERTY THOUGHT IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- TWO BEDROOMS AND UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, UTILITY ROOM
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING & UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- NO UPWARD CHAIN! VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

£84,995 OFFERS

FEATURED PROPERTY

NEW PRICE

EPC E

BLOXWICH
STONEY LANE

- LOVELY EXTENDED CHARACTER TRADITIONAL STYLE SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING, MAJORITY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED
- VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

£155,000 FIXED PRICE

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on **01922 478104**

NEW

EPC: -

BLOXWICH
MILLFIELD AVENUE

- PLEASANT GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- ONE BEDROOM • MODERN STYLE RE-FITTED KITCHEN
- RE-FITTED MODERN STYLE SHOWER ROOM
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY! VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

£65,000 OFFERS

REDUCED

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
PARKER STREET

- CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TERRACED PROPERTY SITUATED CLOSE TO BLOXWICH RAILWAY STATION
- TWO BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
- REAR PARKING WITHIN GARDEN

£80,000 OFFERS

EPC: D

BEECHDALE, WALSALL
HADLEY WAY

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY WITH GARAGE TO THE REAR
- THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN, INTERNAL VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!!

£104,950 OFFERS

EPC: C

BLOXWICH
CROXDENE AVENUE

- DETACHED PROPERTY WITH THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED FOR BLOXWICH RAILWAY STATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- GENEROUS REAR GARDEN
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!

£149,950 OFFERS

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
BOOTH STREET

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY CLOSE TO BLOXWICH TOWN
- THREE BEDROOMS, DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
- SUPERB FAMILY BATHROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING, INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED!

£94,995 OFFERS

EPC: E

BLOXWICH
LICHFIELD ROAD

- VERY DECEPTIVE FOUR BEDROOM TRADITIONAL STYLE SEMI WITH TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- BATHROOM AND EN- SUITE SHOWER / W.C
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, INTERNAL VIEWING NEEDED TO APPRECIATE!!

£154,950 OFFERS

EPC: E

BLOXWICH
MINEWOOD CLOSE

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED MODERN STYLE DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED OFF BROAD LANE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- SUPERB UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY
- OFF ROAD PARKING,VIEWING RECOMMENDED!!

£167,950 OFFERS

EPC: B

LEAMORE, WALSALL
EAGLEWORKS DRIVE

- WELL PRESENTED MODERN STYLE GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE ENTRANCE
- TWO BEDROOMS
- OPEN PLAN LIVING SPACE & KITCHEN
- GATED ALLOCATED PARKING
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE!

£51,000 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP

Successfully selling homes across the Midlands, Black Country and Staffordshire for over 35 years

Our friendly, professional, experienced and motivated sales personnel will guide you through the process of moving home from start to finish, offering a refreshing approach, combining traditional values with the latest technology.

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW

EPC: D

WALSALL
DICKINSON DRIVE

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED END TERRACED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE, KITCHEN DINER, DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
- FIRST FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£109,950 OFFERS

Thinking of Selling this Summer?

Call us Now to book your FREE Market Appraisal!

FEATURED PROPERTY

NEW

EPC: D

LEAMORE, WALSALL
BLAKENALL LANE

- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED EXTENDED FAMILY HOME
- THREE BEDROOM MID TOWN HOUSE
- FAMILY BATHROOM & DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OPEN PLAN THROUGH LOUNGE DINER
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN, GATED DRIVEWAY
- VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£112,500 OFFERS

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01922 478104

BACK ON MARKET

EPC: D

BLOXWICH
BROAD LANE

- SUPERB THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN POPULAR BROAD LANE LOCATION
- EXCELLENT CONSERVATORY
- 17FT FITTED DINING KITCHEN
- LOVELY ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL!!

£120,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF

EPC: -

BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL
BELL TOWER CLOSE

- PLEASANT END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY SITUATED ON MODERN DEVELOPMENT CLOSE TO LOCAL AMENITIES
- THREE BEDROOMS
- 15FT REAR LOUNGE WITH FRENCH DOORS
- MASTER WITH EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM

£140,000 OFFERS IN EXCESS OF

EPC: D

PELSALL
MILLERS WALK

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED MODERN STYLE DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE IN POPULAR PELSALL DEVELOPMENT.
- FOUR BEDROOMS AND EN-SUITE SHOWER
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, NO UPWARD CHAIN

£209,950 OFFERS

EPC: E

BLOXWICH
HARRISON STREET

- SUPERBLY APPOINTED END TERRACED FAMILY HOME SITUATED CLOSE TO BLOXWICH HIGH STREET
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN, IMPRESSIVE BATHROOM
- INTERNAL VIEWING STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

£129,950 OFFERS

EPC: D

LEAMORE, WALSALL
BEATRICE STREET

- TRADITIONAL STYLE THREE BEDROOM SEMI IN CONVENIENT LOCATION OFF BLOXWICH ROAD
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
- GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING

£99,950 OFFERS

EPC: C

BLOXWICH
SIMMONDS ROAD

- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED IN POPULAR LOCATION OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN.
- THREE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING

£139,950 OFFERS

EPC: D

BEECHDALE, WALSALL
KELVIN ROAD

- TWO BEDROOM END TOWN HOUSE ON CORNER PLOT WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- POTENTIAL TO EXTEND SUBJECT TO RELEVANT PLANNING PERMISSION.

£83,000

NEW

EPC: D

SHELFIELD, WALSALL
HARRINGWORTH COURT, LICHFIELD ROAD

- PLEASANTLY APPOINTED FIRST FLOOR APPOINTMENT
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR INVESTMENT
- ONE BEDROOM
- ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE,
- INTERCOM SECURITY ENTRANCE, NO UPWARD CHAIN!

£64,950 OFFERS

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MANAGER'S CHOICE

HUNTS LANE
SHORT HEATH

- Traditional Semi Detached Bungalow
- Generous lounge
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Superb conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Superb luxury bathroom
- Driveway
- Rear gardens
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double glazing
- No Upward Chain Available

£156,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

AMBERWOOD CLOSE
BENTLEY, WALSALL

- Pleasantly appointed semi detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Separate utility room
- Refitted first floor bathroom
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Low maintenance rear garden with paved patio
- Carport and off road parking
- No upward chain

£129,995

OPEN DAY SUN 6TH JULY 12.30 -2.30PM

HOUGH WAY
ESSINGTON

- OPEN DAY SUNDAY 6TH JULY 12.30PM - 2.30PM
- First Floor Apartment
- Impressively Appointed
- Premier Cul-De-Sac Location
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space
- No Chain

OFFERS OVER £110,000

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ROSEWOOD DRIVE
COPPICE FARM

- Much improved modern semi detached
- Three bedrooms ● Lounge
- Superb newly fitted dining kitchen
- Conservatory
- Refitted bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Block paved driveway
- Rear garden

£160,000

FARBROOK WAY
SUMMER HAYES

- Extended Detached ● No Chain
- Spacious Lounge
- Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Gas CH ● Majority Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Garage ● Utility with WC
- Driveway

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £169,000

HONEYBOURNE WAY
WILLENHALL

- Modern Detached Property
- Popular location
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas CH ● Double Glazing
- Garage ● Driveway
- Corner Plot Gardens

£157,000

JAMES STREET
THE MANOR, WILLENHALL

- Spacious 1930's Semi Detached
- Prominent Corner Position
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Kitchen ● Utility
- Large Gardens
- Garage & Driveway
- No chain

£150,000

LUCKNOW ROAD
WILLENHALL

- Modern style link detached
- Three good size bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Spacious lounge ● Dining room
- Impressive conservatory
- Refitted kitchen
- Double glazing ● Gas CH
- Superb Gardens
- Garage and driveway

£144,950

NOOSE LANE
WILLENHALL

- Well Appointed Detached
- Hall with Guest wc
- Three Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Lounge and Dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory/utility
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £140,000

TENBURY CLOSE
BENTLEY

- Superb Modern Style Semi Detached
- Desirable Cul De Sac
- Spacious Lounge ● Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms ● Shower Room
- Gas CH ● Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Delightful Landscaped Rear Gardens
- Planning Permission for Two Storey Side Extension

£137,500

YALE ROAD
WILLENHALL

- Modern Mid Town House
- Hall ● Guests WC
- Lounge
- Improved Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms ● Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Parking Space ● Gardens
- No Chain

£121,950

POOL HAYES LANE
WILLENHALL

- Semi Detached Property
- No Upward Chain
- Spacious Lounge
- Large Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom with Separate WC
- Garage ● Driveway
- Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System

OFFERS OVER £115,000

TILDESLEY DRIVE
WILLENHALL

- Extended End Terrace Property
- No Chain
- Spacious Through Lounge
- Extended Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room with Separate WC
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Very Large Rear Gardens

£115,000

CEDAR PARK ROAD
SNEYD PARK

- Mid Terrace Property
- No Upward Chain
- Hall ● Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Rear Gardens

£107,950

WINDSOR WALK
DARLASTON

- Extended well presented modern style end terrace
- Lounge ● Dining Room
- Superb Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double glazing ● Rear garden
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces

£105,000

SQUIRES GROVE
NEW INVENTION

- Minimum of 40% shared ownership available
- Well presented second floor flat
- Two bedrooms
- Large lounge with dining area
- Fitted kitchen ● En-suite
- Bathroom ● Double glazing
- Allocated parking space
- No chain

£92,500 FOR 100% OWNERSHIP

ALBION ROAD
WILLENHALL

- Spacious Period Mid
- Convenient Location
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Large Impressive Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens

£89,950

JANE LANE CLOSE
BENTLEY

- Mid Terrace Property
- Cul de sac Location
- Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Gardens
- No Chain

£80,000

WOLVERSON CLOSE
WILLENHALL

- Ground Floor Flat
- Much Improved
- Large Lounge
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- No Chain

£67,000

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the estate agent

Residential Sales
Lettings
Property Management

Walhouse Road
Walsall

- Immaculate End Terrace Property
- Three Large Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Principle Reception Room & Cellar
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- Sun Room, Utility Room & Ground Floor Wc

- Imposing Reception Hallway
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System, Modern Kitchen Incoprating Dining & Living Space

Viewing
OFFERS AROUND: **£230,000**

Broadway
Walsall
NEW

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower Room
- Three Further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Energy Rating D
- Large Breakfast Kitchen

- Ground Floor Guest Wc
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System, Lounge, Sitting Room & Dining Area

Viewing
OFFERS AROUND: **£199,950**

Victoria Avenue
Bloxwich

- Spacious Traditional Semi Detached Home
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Lounge & Two Further Reception Rooms
- Large Mature Rear Garden
- First Floor Family Bathroom

- Ground Floor Guest Wc
- Double Glazed As Stated
- Gas Central Heating System, Kitchen Incorporating Breakfast Area

Viewing
£189,950

Lynwood Close
Willenhall
REDUCED

- 3 Bedroom link-detached house
- Sought after location
- Entrance hall
- , Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£169,500**

Delves Green Road
South Walsall

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- Contemporary Style Throughout, Reception Hall-

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£159,950**

Haines Close
Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Superbly improved accommodation
- epc C, Reception Hall + Guest Cloakroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£154,995**

Maple Drive
Yew Tree

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Through Lounge & Conservatory
- Energy Rating E, Kitchen & Reception Hallway

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£154,950**

Arundel Street
Walsall

- Mid Terrace Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Good Sized Accommodation, Spacious Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£149,950**

Eleanor Road
Bilston
NEW

- New build
- 2 Bedroom detached bungalow
- Entrance hall
- , Lounge

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£149,500**

Broadstone Avenue
Bloxwich
REDUCED

- Spacious Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Large Reception Rooms
- Good Access To Bloxwich & Walsall,

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£144,950**

Wrekin View
Brownhills

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate, Utility Area

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£142,000**

Dudley Road
Tipton

- Modern 2.5 Storey End Town House
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- epc, Reception Hall + Guest Cloakroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£139,995**

Jenny Close
Bilston

- 3 Bedroom modern semi detached house
- Entrance hall and wc
- Lounge
- , Dining room

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£137,500**

Eleanor Road
Bilston
NEW

- New build
- 2 Bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Entrance hall
- , Lounge

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£135,000**

Bentley Drive
Walsall

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Corner Position & No Chain, Kitchen & Utility Room

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£129,950**

Wilmot Drive
Tipton

- Modern End Terrace
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Immaculate Internal Accomodation
- epc, Reception hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£125,000**

Jonfield Gardens
Great Barr

- Modern Top Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Viewing Essential To Appreciate, Bathroom With

OFFERS OVER
Viewing: **£110,000**

Dereham Walk
Bilston

- 3 Bedroom semi detached house
- No upward chain
- Lounge
- , Modern Kitchen/Diner

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£105,000**

Sandys Grove
Tipton

- Modern End Terrace
- Upvc double glazing + Gas central heating
- Sought After Cul De Sac Location
- epc C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£105,000**

Alder Road
Wednesbury

- 1 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: TBC, No Chain!

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£100,000**

Castle Street
Tipton

- Modern First Floor Apartment
- Immaculate Accommodation
- Upvc double glazing + Gas central heating
- epc, Reception hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£99,950**

Davy Road
Walsall

- End Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms & Loft Room
- Lounge & Sitting Room
- Internal Inspection Essential, Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£95,000**

Bankfield Road
Tipton

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- sought after location + canal views to rear
- epc, reception hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£95,000**

Hall Lane
Tipton

- Superbly Presented Semi Detached
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- epc E, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£94,950**

Abingdon Road
Wolverhampton

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
- No Upward Chain
- Lounge
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£90,000**

Hollyhedge Lane
Walsall

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Ongoing Chain, Modern Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£87,500**

Fisher Street
Willenhall
NEW

- 3 Bedroom traditional house
- 2 Reception rooms
- Kitchen
- , Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£84,950**

Oval Road
Tipton

- Semi Detached
- Corner Plot
- No Upward Chain
- epc C, Reception hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£82,000**

Pleck Road
Walsall

- Traditional MId Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating D, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£79,950**

David Road
Tipton

- Semi Detached
- Corner Position
- In need of attention
- epc E, porch + aeception hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£75,000**

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice Of Offer:- Property Address:- 5 Ballfields, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7DZ. We Advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £74,950. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Agents:- Paul Dubberley and Co, 73 Great bridge, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7HF - Tel :- 0121 522 3733 - EPC C

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADDRESS 27 Manifold Way Wednesbury WS10 0GB
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £55,000.
Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC RATING B

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Flat 58 , The Pinnacle 50 Gorner Street Willenhall WV13 2NW We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £43,950 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place EPC RATING C

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NEW

BLOXWICH
Stafford Road
- Extended Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Study/Laundry/Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory

In the Region of £350,000

Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH

- Extended Four Bed Detached
- Immaculate Presentation
- Sought After Location
- Block Paved Driveway
- Garage
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £324,950

NEW

Leigh Road
WALSALL

- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

In the Region of £320,000

Green Lane
SHELFIELD
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Conservatory
- Guest W.C.
- Loft Room
- Garage
- Family Bathroom
- Clay Block paved Driveway

In the Region of £229,950

Stamping Way
BLOXWICH
- Four Bedroom Three Storey
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage

Offers in Excess of £219,950

Ganton Road
TURNBERRY ESTATE
- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Tandem Double Garage

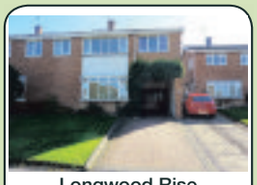
In the Region of £219,950

Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH
- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
- Extended Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing

Offers in Excess of £200,000

Lichfield Road
BLOXWICH
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Lean To
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway

Offers in Excess of £150,000



Longwood Rise
WILLENHALL
- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Garage
- D.Glazing & Central Heating
- Driveway & off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Wolverhampton Road
BLOXWICH
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Re-Furbished
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bed with En-Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Field Road
BLOXWICH
- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Dining Room
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility
- Downstairs W.C.
- Master with en-suite
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Pattenham Close
WILLENHALL
- Three Bedroom Townhouse
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Two Further Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gated Development

In the Region of £145,995

Bernard Street
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom terrace property
- Part Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Large Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Extended

In the Region of £145,000

Gurnard Close
COPPICE FARM
- Extended Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- L' Shaped Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility/Downstairs W.C.
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Lane Avenue
WALSALL
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Re-Furbished
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C
- En-Suite Shower
- Bathroom
- Rear Gardens

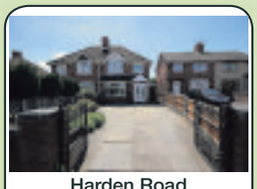
In the Region of £128,000

West Bromwich Road
WALSALL
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £125,000

Rough Brook Road
RUSHALL
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Guest W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing & Gas

In the Region of £124,995



Harden Road
BLOXWICH
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £120,000

Station Road
RUSHALL
- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £120,000

Walkers Fold
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £107,950

Moncrieffe Street
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Extended Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Courtyard & Garden
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £95,000

Terret Close
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Electric Heating

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Wolverhampton Road
WALSALL
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Lean To
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £90,000

NEW

Deermead Court
WALSALL
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Parking

In the Region of £90,000

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Marlpool Drive
PELSALL

- Five Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Newly Fitted Family Bathroom

In the Region of £295,000

Mount Road
PELSALL

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
- Further Reception/ Garage
- En-Suite Bathrooms & Cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Mature Rear Garden with Brick Built Shed

In the Region of £285,000

Ferndown Close
WALSALL

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory

Offers in Excess of £240,000

Leigh Road
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Utility/Guest W.C.
- Fitted Family Bathroom
- Study
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £230,000

Bealeys Lane
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility/Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Corner Plot Location
- Ample Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £230,000

Field road
BLOXWICH

- Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Re-Furbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room/WC
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

In the Region of £194,000

Miles Meadow Close
COPPICE FARM

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Three Further Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £190,000

Wallington Heath
BLOXWICH

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Breakfast/ Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Fitted Wardrobes in Master Bedroom
- Conservatory/Utility
- Gardens

Offers in Excess of £160,000

Castings Close
BLOXWICH

- Brand New Development
- Three & Four Bedroom
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom
- En-Suite
- Family Bathroom

Prices from £160,000

Spindle Tree Rise
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Through Lounge/ Diner
- Fitted kitchen
- Utility
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with E-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory

In the Region of £159,950

Simmonds Road
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Refurbished
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Gardens
- Garage & Driveway

Offers in Excess of £142,000

Edinburgh Drive
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Large Rear Garden
- Ample Off Road Parking

In the Region of £139,995

The Pines
WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Garage/Games Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £139,950

Oakridge Close
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Cul-de-Sac location
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region Of £134,950

Coltham Road
WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Large Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Allocated Off Road Parking

In the Region of £130,000

Harden Road
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Guest W.C.
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in Excess of £115,000

Lichfield Road
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £114,995

Bentley Lane
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Gated Allocated Parking

In the Region of £110,000

Red Brook Road
WALSALL

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Situated in a quiet Cul-de-Sac
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £110,000

Chatsworth Close
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £110,000

Star Close
BENTLEY

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing

In the Region of £85,000

Raleigh Street
WALSALL

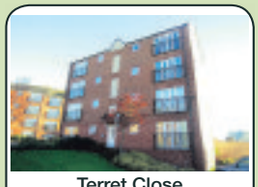
- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Courtyard &

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Blakenall Lane
BLOXWICH

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Potential to Extend
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Shower Room
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £80,000



Terret Close
WALSALL

- One Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated Gated Parking
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating

In the Region of £79,950

Cartbridge Walk
WALSALL

- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens
- Parking
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £75,000

Clarkes Lane
WILLENHALL

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Double Glazing
- Gas Heating

£70,000

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Cemetery Road

£87,000

A two bedroom modern end of terrace home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and electric central heating. Within walking distance of many bus links to the nearby towns of Wednesfield (incl New Cross hospital), Bilston, Wolverhampton and Walsall. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord this lovely property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear garden with enclosed secure off road parking to rear. Energy rating E.

Foster Street

£100,000

A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens. EPC rating D.

Hilton Road Lanesfield

£120,000

●●●REDUCED FROM £130,000 AND SIMPLY MUST BE VIEWED●● Refurbished, improved and upgraded with tens of thousands of pounds spent improving the property this superb three bedroom family home has the benefit of no upward chain, NEW UPVC double glazing, NEW central heating system, NEW floor coverings and decoration. This ideal family home further comprises reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/diner/re-fitted kitchen, three bedroom, refitted family bathroom with shower and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Cherry Tree Avenue

£150,000

A much improved and upgraded and extended three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain, gas central heating and majority double glazing. This lovely property further comprises, porch, reception hall, spacious lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, extended sitting room, 3 bedrooms, refitted family bathroom with shower, front and over 100ft rear garden, off road parking and detached garage. Energy rating C.

Oak Road Shelfield

£110,000

●●CALL FOR 95% MORTGAGES, SUIT FIRST TIME BUYER●● A much improved and upgraded two bedroom semi detached family home. Ideal for the first time buyer or investor whilst befitting from majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented property further comprises, reception hall, spacious through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, side covered entrance, utility room, two double bedrooms, bathroom, good sized rear garden with patio, off road parking and garden to front. Energy rating E.

Market Square

£67,995

●●Suit landlord or first time buyer (Previously let out for £475pcm)●● A well presented one bedroom modern City centre apartment located on the fourth floor and being in the heart of Wolverhampton City Centre with the benefit of no upward chain, security intercom and lift to the first floor, double glazing and electric central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, double bedroom, luxury bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen and secure allocated parking. EPC rating of C.

Wolverhampton Road West

£139,995

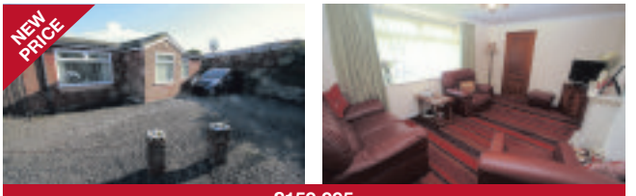
A lovely 3 bedroom traditional semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This superb family home further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, Guest W.C, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden with workshop, garage/store and off road parking to the front. Energy rating E.

Wayford Glade

£120,000

A three bedroom semi detached family home in a quiet cul-de-sac location having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord this lovely property further comprises, reception hall, through lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, detached garage and off road parking to front. Energy rating D.

Arnhem Road



£159,995

A superb improved and upgraded three bedroom detached bungalow having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory, guest W.C, three bedrooms, family bathroom, good sized attractive rear gardens and off road parking to the front. Energy rating D.

Magness Crescent

£135,000

In this sought after location is this good sized three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises covered side entrance (utility room), reception hall, L-shaped lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom, paved rear garden, off road parking and garage. Energy rating D.

Fawley Close

£120,225

A lovely two bedroom semi detached home in a cul-de-sac on a sought after estate, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, good sized front and rear gardens and off road parking for four or more vehicles. Energy rating D.

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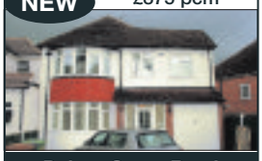
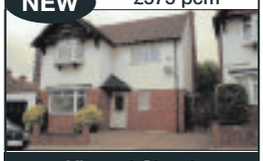
12 Ablewell Street, Walsall, WS1 2EQ

NEW £875 pcm



Delves Green Road
- An extended 4 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Luxury en-suite shower room
- Garage, Driveway EPC rating D

NEW £575 pcm

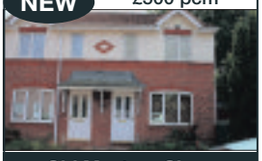


Vincent Street
- A well presented 3 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway EPC rating E

NEW £550 pcm

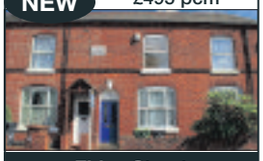
Vincent Street
- A well presented 3 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden EPC rating E

NEW £500 pcm



Old Masters Close
- A modern 2 bed end terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Stylish fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Parking, Rear garden EPC rating C

NEW £495 pcm



Eldon Street
- A traditional 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden with patio area

NEW £450 pcm

Lime Street
- A modern 2 bed mid terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Wood framed double glazing throughout
- Rear garden, DSS accepted EPC rating C

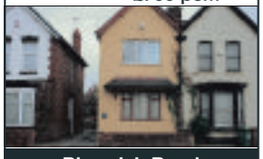
NEW £395 pcm

Sutton Road
- A well presented 1st floor studio apartment
- 1 spacious living area
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Gas, Water and Council Tax included
- Sorry No DSS

NEW £395 pcm

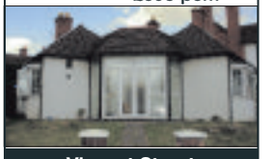
Wellington Road
- A 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double glazing throughout
- Recently re-decorated

£700 pcm



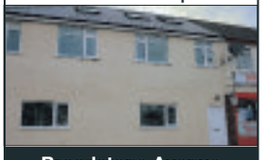
Bloxwich Road
- A fully re-furbished 4 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 4 bathrooms all with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS considered EPC rating E

£695 pcm



Vinvent Street
- A well presented 4 bed detached bungalow
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- 2 family bathroom 1 with a shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

£550 pcm



Broadstone Avenue
- A fully re-furbished 2 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Ground floor

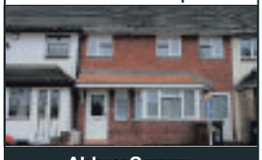
£500 pcm

Addenbrooke Street
- A well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower over the bath
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

£500 pcm

Windrush Close
- A modern 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Allocated parking space

£495 pcm



Abbey Square
- A redecorated 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating C

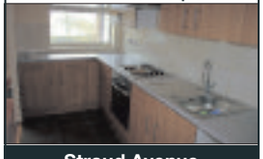
£495 pcm

Netley Way
- A well presented 3b end terrace
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and rear garden EPC rating D

£430 pcm

Scarborough Ropad
- A well presented 2 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with bath and shower cubicle
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£425 pcm



Stroud Avenue
- A choice of three 2 bed apartments
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with separate WC
- Double Glazing throughout
- Viewing essential EPC rating F

£425 pcm

Ashmore Lake Road
- A well presented 2 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Parking available

£425 pcm

Whitehall Road
- A traditional 2 bed end terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£350 pcm

The Shambles
- A recently re-furbished 1 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower cubicle
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating C

£750 pcm

Mandeville Gardens
- A modern 4 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway, Guest WC and rear garden

£550 pcm

Follyhouse Lane
- A fully re-furbished 3 bed semi
- 1 spacious reception room
- New fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden and Driveway EPC rating E

£525 pcm

Greadier Street
- A well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious through lounge
- Fitted kitchen with side utility area
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Driveway, Guest WC, DSS accepted

£475 pcm

Weston Street
- A re-decorated 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

£450 pcm

Lord Street, Palfrey
- A re-decorated 2 doube bed end terrace
- 2 Spacious reception rooms
- A modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs fmaily bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

£350 pcm

Bloxwich Road
- A 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- EPC rating D

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Drivetime

Vauxhall marking 10 years of hot VXR brand with VXR8 GTS

Vauxhall's VXR brand has come of age in 2014 with the latest addition of the mighty VXR8 GTS marking 10 years since the VXR brand made its debut on UK shores.

With total sales now exceeding 20,000, the VXR range has been embraced by UK car enthusiasts, who have built up a loyal following to the brand.

As a result, Britain has always been the leading market in Europe for Vauxhall/Opel performance cars, known as OPCs in other countries.

There are currently five cars in Vauxhall's VXR range: the Corsa VXR, the 210PS Corsa VXR ClubSport, the 280PS Astra VXR, the 325PS Insignia VXR and the 576PS VXR8 GTS.

With a combined power output of nearly 1,600PS, there are few performance car ranges that offer so much power per pound.

The first cars to bear the VXR nameplate were the VXR220 and the Monaro VXR, both of which were launched at the British Motor Show in Summer 2004.

Makeovers

Number One VXR220 still resides in Vauxhall's Heritage Centre, while the Monaro VXR – '…a true rear-wheel drive car for enthusiasts' – was 40 per cent cheaper than a BMW 6-series at launch, yet developed 330PS from it 5.7-litre V8 engine. But sports cars and rear-drive coupes haven't been the only models subjected to VXR makeovers.

The Zafira and Meriva MPVs were unlikely candidates, but proved that up to 240PS in a front-wheel drive people-carrier needn't be an unruly experience. Chassis development at the Nordschleife helped, as did a raft of cabin upgrades, including Recaro front seats.

More recently, models like the Astra VXR and Corsa VXR ClubSport have adopted sophisticated differential technology to cater for ever increasing power outputs. Manufactured by Drexler, the units help power to be applied more effectively through bends, giving the impression that the driver is being pulled towards the apex under power. And technological innovation is now the VXR bedrock. Torque Vectoring and magnetorheological damping (VXR8 GTS), adaptive all-wheel drive (Insignia VXR), FlexRide adaptive damping (Astra and Insignia VXRs), as well as generous levels of standard equipment in all VXRs have made the range a firm favourite with British enthusiasts.

This year also marks the anniversaries of two iconic performance Vauxhalls that never wore the VXR badge. Launched in 1989, both the Calibra and Lotus Carlton are now celebrating their first quarter-century.

The Calibra was unveiled at the Frankfurt show, and with a Cd of just 0.26, it became the most aerodynamic car in its class, which when combined with up to 200bhp and all-wheel drive in later models, made it a credible rival for cars like the Sierra Cosworth and Lancia Delta Integrale. The Calibra was produced until 1996, by which time over 40,000 had found homes in the UK.

More than 65 years after producing Britain's first 100mph road car, Vauxhall proved that it was still adept at causing a stir in the performance car world when it launched the fastest four-door saloon in the world: the Lotus Carlton.

With 377bhp from its twin-turbcharged, straight-six engine, Vauxhall's super-saloon could crack 176mph and accelerate from 0-62mph in 5.4 seconds. And with a chassis developed with Lotus Engineering, the Lotus Carlton was an assured and finely balanced car that was equally adroit on fast British A-roads or belting along de-restricted Autobahns.

And 25 years on, perhaps the Lotus Carlton has finally met its match with the latest VXR8 GTS… Either way, the VXR range continues to go from strength to strength.

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4 Pets & Animals

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
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6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
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   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
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10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
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    Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
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DRIVER CPC 5 DAY COURSE MON - FRI • Weekend courses available too.
£51.25 per module. A deposit secures all your training for the price at time of booking.
BOOK TO SECURE YOUR 35 HOURS
DON'T WAIT IT WILL BE TOO LATE
01902 482452 or 07956 237791

ALL ALCOHOL LICENSING

New Premises Licences	£1,400 (All in)
Major Variations	£1,400 (All in)
Transfers & Variations of DPS	£123 each
Minor Variations	£450
Licensing Hearings	£450
Personal Licence Courses	£150
Plans	£125 (included in premise licence)
Food Hygiene Course level 2	£42
Health & Safety Course level 2	£42

Michael Pearce TLTC Ltd Willenhall
We can come to you at no extra cost
07815 746123 (24 Hours)

electricians

QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN & MATES required. 17th edition for local work. Relevant qualifications and CSCS or ECS Card a must. Please call 01922 315520.

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED BRICKLAYER Seeks employment, all types of brickwork, own tools and transport. 07778 480411.

nursing & carers

REGISTERED MENTAL NURSE/ GENERAL NURSE Full Time Position (Nights) £14.00 Per Hour (depending upon experience). Drug administration, Supervise Staff, Development of individual care plans, On-going evaluation of care, Leadership qualities
Contact number 01922 701702

part time - general

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

sales & marketing

WE CURRENTLY HAVE Telesales vacancies available in the Walsall area, you must be self motivated and enthusiastic, no experience necessary as full training will be provided. Part Time evening shifts only Call 07876 805731.

full time - general

EXPERIENCED Aluminium Window Fabricator. Aluminium window Door & Curtain Walling Fabricator required must be self motivated with a willing attitude and able to work in a busy environment. Applications should be made in written form to: Mr J Bayliss Elite Aluminium Systems Ltd Leamore Lane Walsall WS2 7DQ or via email to general@elitesystems.co.uk

MANUFACTURING OPERATIVE - Burntwood, Staffordshire. Manufacturing Operative required for busy saddle tree business. No experience necessary as full training will be given - positive attitude and hands on approach a must! Please Email or post your CV and a covering letter outlining why you feel you're the ideal candidate to: gaynorcooper@lariot.co.uk Lariot, College Farm, Bosty Lane, Aldridge, WS9 0LF. No agencies. Closing Date: 24th July 2014.

MNA Media

Eye for detail self motivated, enthusiastic, confident...

Have you got what it takes?

Sales Relationship Merchandisers

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self-motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express & Star and Shropshire Star are looking for a team of sales relationship merchandisers to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicants will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £15,000 pro rata, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

All positions are 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for one of these roles please send your CV and covering letter to:

Personnel Department
Midland News Association
Queen Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Or by e-mail to:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

MNA Media

Spotlight on a great career in

MediaSales

Field Sales Representatives & Tele-sales Advisors - Entertainment & Leisure category

The MNA, publishers of the Express & Star, are looking for talented people to join our Entertainment and Leisure Sales Team, advising and selling response focused advertising to a range of local businesses within our newspaper and digital media portfolio.

The successful candidate will have a keen interest in the entertainments and leisure industry, with a sociable, outgoing personality and the ability to develop and grow successful business relationships in this particular field.

Key Responsibilities and Skills

- Developing a firm business relationship with customers in your Entertainments and Leisure territory.
- The ability to generate new business leads from the category.
- Exceed minimum sales targets.
- Creative and articulate is key.
- Ability to identify the best advertising opportunities to enhance a customer's profile.

Experience

- A proven track record, preferably in the media industry and/or entertainments/leisure field would be an advantage.
- A real desire to succeed.

Once fully qualified, you can expect to earn O.T.E circa £30,000 p.a and benefits including a company car for field sales, side by side coaching, specific skills and product training and career progression for the right candidates.

Please send your C.V. along with a covering letter, quoting **"Entertainments and Leisure"** to:

Personnel Dept
Midland News Association
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Or apply by email to:
personnel@expressandstar.co.uk

Closing date: Friday July 11th 2014.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 2011, 60reg, two owners, 36,000, F.S.H, MoT, tax. Many extra's. Bargain £4,200. 07708 677 311.

FORD MONDEO 1.8 EDGE 07 reg, grey, 67,000 miles, 9 months MoT, £2,600. 07597 369652.

MERCEDES CLK 2.2 diesel auto, 2006, 105,000 miles, tax, MoT, leather seats, air con, very good condition, £5,395. 07831 325174.

PEUGEOT 206, diesel, hatch, 55 plate, 64,000 miles, new MoT, computer dash, any trial, sale due to angina, £2000. 0121 500 6047.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 diesel, 55 plate, long tax and MoT, red, excellent condition. £2,000 ono. 01922 701987 / 07551 989802.

RENAULT MODUS 1600, excellent condition, taxed and tested, £1,400. 07825 255120.

SAAB 9.3 CONVERTIBLE, 54 reg, 107,000 miles, long MoT, auto, tax, alloys, leather interior, £2,750 ono. 07931 964753.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

SUZUKI IGNIS 1.3, GL, grey, 5 door, hatchback, 2007, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, low mileage. £2,600 ono. 07960 460001.

TOYOTA CELICA 1.8VVTi, 2002, only 90,000 miles, silver, tax, MoT, immaculate condition, £1,750. Telephone 07563 326824.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
A WIDE RANGE OF CARS FROM £750
Full MOTs & warrantes
Credit Cards Accepted
Phone or Call in Open 7 Days A Week
www.bmamotors.co.uk
01902 490555 / 07553 358610
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

BMW 328i Petrol E36, 7 months MoT, good runner, tax just ran out £899 ono. 01922 513810 or 07930 127107.

LOOK

DAEWOO LACETTI
1600cc SX, 5 door hatch, 2005 model, low mileage, FSH, full MoT, years tax, every extra, excellent condition.
£1,195 ono.

FORD KA COLLECTION
1300cc, 2003, 3 door hatch, gleaming black, full MoT and tax, FSH, low mileage, supreme condition, alloys, electric windows, PAS, CL/A.
£1,195 ono.
Private sale.
07776 377820.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1600 Sports edition, W reg., 77,000 miles, alloys, very reliable, MoT and tax, £500. 07548 300170.

MERCEDES CLK230 COUPE, auto, R reg, silver, fsh, long MoT, 96,000 miles, alloys, good condition. £1,195 ono. 07847 456061.

PEUGEOT 106
Roland Garos, 95, 1.4 petrol, 64,500miles, MoT/tax, fsh. One lady owner from new. Must be seen.
Excellent condition.
£500 ono.
07746 880 620.

PEUGEOT 206 3door, 2003, Tax and MoT to May 2015. Fully serviced. 27,000 miles. £1,200. 01922 684518.

RENAULT CLIO
2 door, Y reg, silver, MoT November, tax ends June 14. 58k, Good condition. Family car for 6 years.
£375.
01922 693636 / 07841 402830.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 16V, Fidji Model, 52 Reg. Full MoT, 1 months Tax. 70,000 miles. £1,100 ono. 07933 918920 / 0121 530 3219.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

TOYOTA AVENSIS 52 reg, silver, MoT/tax. Good runner, £500. No offers. 07926 768401.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2000, 77,000 miles, silver, MoT till April 15, 2015, tax till Nov 2014, stereo, £550 ono. 01543 878279.

commercial vehicles

VAUXHALL COMBO 1.7 Di, 04 plate, 98,000 miles, very good conditon, £1,095 ono. 07581 112596.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
Christmas & Birthday gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

1st TWO LESSONS £10 EACH £16 per hour after. Block bookings and intensive course. 07986 552131.

motorbikes

CHASE MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
CBT to Direct Access
P/T instrucors Always Required
CALL US NOW
0845 757 3402
www.chasemotorcycletraining.co.uk

HONDA SCOOTER, 2001, 125cc, new tyres, 12 months MoT. £500. Evenings 01785 253638.

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING CBT to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

SUZUKI GSF BANDIT
2002, 600cc, blue,unfaired, MoT, tax, 15K miles, new tyres and brakes, crash bars, summer use, garaged, superb,
£1,350 ono
0121 520 8932.
07768 774747.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

SCRAPCARBUYERS.CO.UK
TOP PRICES PAID
0800 533 5139
0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

BJ CARS PAYS MORE
www.bjcars.co.uk
Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
Best Prices!
01902 498542
01902 658792 EVE

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811- 24 hrs

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

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SCB CAR HIRE
From £10 per day
0800 533 5139
0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE Daily,Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

W.T.R VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

W.T.R VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

spares & accessories

accessories & services

PRIVATE REG X5 VFC, on retention till June 2015, £1,500. 01785 282652. 07931 908221.

mot's

MOT's NO RETEST FEE £27.99. 7 days DSG Motor Mechanics. Call: 01902 631466 / 07866 030218.

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapest in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

*** 14/0848/FL** Veseyan RFC & Sports Club FOR: Retrospective consent for two car park barriers and fencing along Little Hardwick Road frontage AT: Veseyan Sports Club, Little Hardwick Road, Walsall, WS9 0SQ

14/0905/FL Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust FOR: Proposed 30 bed modular decant ward AT: Manor Hospital, Moat Road, Walsall, WS2 9PS

14/0666/FL Mr Naveed Hussain FOR: Change of Use to hot food takeaway (A5). AT: 166 Stafford Street, Walsall, WS2 8EA

The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

LICENSING ACT 2003
We, PSK Pubs Limited, hereby give notice that we have applied under s17 Licensing and in accordance with Section 12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for premises to be known as The Oak Public House,150 Walsall Road, Willenhall, West Midlands WWV13 2EB, namely.
- For the sale and supply of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises. Monday to Sunday 1000-0200 hours
- Regulated entertainment, namely films, indoor sporting events, live music, recorded music, performance of dance or anything of a similar description. Monday to Sunday 1000-0200 hours
- Late Night Refreshment Monday to Sunday 2300-0200

Premises open to the public Monday to Sunday 1000-0230
Any responsible authority or any other person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Licensing Unit, Walsall MBC, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 1YG not later than 24th July 2014
A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours, by contacting the above office on 01922 653050. Email: Licensing@walsall.gov.uk
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000), under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in, or in connection with this application.
Michael Pearce TLTC Ltd 07815 746123.
Authorised Agents
Dated 26th June 2014

10 Personals

personal

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Cinema Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

GENUINE LADY
w.l.t.m a genuine male or female, honest down to earth for coach day trips, holidays etc.
Photo appreciated and returned.
Cannock and surrounding area.
Box Number P19320 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LOOK

GENUINE MALE 35
Attractive, with a GSOH, seeking a similar genuine lady, 27 - 43.
I Enjoy country walks and pubs, nights in and out, holidays UK and abroad and would like to share these things with a like minded lady.
West Midlands areas preferred.
Photo appreciated (returned).
Box Number C19318 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

The Sun is shining and love is in the air, come and join ATTITUDE ring 0121 520 3715 to find that special someone in your area and let the romance begin!

sports clubs

PLAYERS REQUIRED
for U14's girls & U13's boys for next seasons move to 11 aside. U16's boys - experienced players required.
Contact Secretary Jackie on **07805 177531.**
www.lightwoodslions.com

WYRLEY JUNIORS FC
FA Community Club
Is looking for players and teams to join a very successful, ambitious and friendly club.
Boys from 4-16 years and girls from 5-17years.
Men and Women also wanted for its 5 Open Age Teams.
Contact
Sarah on 07733 302759 or Keith 07836 202764.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Local Specialists

Accountancy

ACCOUNTANCY AND TAXATION

Self Assessment and all accountancy services for the self employed, partnerships and limited companies.
A prompt and reliable service at a sensible cost

For a free appointment please call:
Robert Ollerenshaw on:Shenstone
01543 481329
Email:ollerenshaws@btinternet.com www.ollerenshaws.co.uk
Evening appointments not a problem

Aerials

Digital Rapid Aerials

-Aerials, Plasma Brackets & CCTV Cameras supplied & fitted
-Repairs -Tuning -Multirooms

digital freesat sky

OAP DISCOUNTS
FREE QUOTATIONS

AERIALS FITTED FROM £69!

A LOCAL BUSINESS YOU CAN TRUST
01922 693047
07960 173589

Driveways

WESTCOT CONTRACTORS
38 Years Experience
TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING
LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE
• Domestic Drives • Patios • Tennis Courts construction
• Commercial car parks and roads • Vehicle access crossing highway approved
Free quotations - All work guaranteed
(01543) 251416
email:westcotcontractors@gmail.com

Bathrooms

WMPT Services Ltd

Specialists in:
- BATHROOMS
- WETROOMS
- BATHROOM DESIGN
- TILING/PLASTERING
- DISABLED/MOBILITY BATHROOMS

All types of Home Improvements
FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

07869 134456
01922 646144

Blinds & Curtains

Made to measure blinds
Ace Blinds (UK)
Verticals • Roller • Venetian • Wood • Slat Roman
NO OBLIGATION • FREE QUOTATION
Free fitting • Wide fabric choice • Fast local service
Tel: 01543 820377
Mob 07758 193415

BARGAIN BLINDS
7 VERTICAL BLINDS FROM £199
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY 'LIKE FOR LIKE' QUOTE
FULL RANGE OF BLINDS AVAILABLE
FREE Quote FREE Fitting
FREE Child Safety Features
Free Phone 0800 0347 111
www.ukbargainblinds.co.uk

Electricians

JRB Electrical Services
ALL WORK CARRIED OUT AND GUARANTEED BY LOCAL ELECTRICIAN FROM A LIGHT SWITCH TO A FULL REWIRE
FULLY INSURED HONEST TRUSTWORTHY
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS
NO JOB TOO SMALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION CALL JAMES
Tel: 07816 229 170
email: jrbelectricalservices@sky.com
DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
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07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Carpentry

JAY'S CARPENTRY & HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NEED EXTRA SPACE ?... GARAGE CONVERSIONS
ALSO LOFT LADDER SUPPLIED & INSTALLED
• Fitted Wardrobes
• Floors • Tiling
• Doors • Decking
FREE QUOTES
Call Jason: 01922 611272 / 07951 922879
www.jayscarpentry.co.uk

Double Glazing

INSTALLERS OF WINDOWS, DOORS & ULTIMATE REPAIR SERVICE
Before After
Misted Glass
Broken Locks
Handles etc
Disabled Adaptions
OVER 16 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
ECO Glaze
Property Solutions Ltd
M: 07412 488623 T: 01543 686946
www.ecoglaze.pro
E: sales@ecoglaze.pro
24 Lambert Drive, Burntwood WS7 2DR

WINDOW DOCTOR Est 26 years
THE MOST EXPERIENCED REPAIR SPECIALISTS IN THE AREA
• BROKEN AND MISTED UNITS REPLACED
• SAME DAY SERVICE AVAILABLE
• REPAIRS TO DOORS, WINDOWS, PATIOS AND CONSERVATORIES
• WE FIX: FAULTY LOCKS, BROKEN HINGES, HANDLES AND PATIO WHEELS
• ALL WORK GUARANTEED 10 YEARS - NO CALL OUT CHARGE
FOR A FREE SURVEY OR ADVICE CALL NEIL ON:
01543 504900 24 HRS
07748 108035
12 WELLINGTON DRIVE, CANNOCK WS11 1PU

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B J FENCING SUPPLIES
QUALITY PRODUCTS AT TRADE PRICES
SUPPLY ONLY OR EXPERT FITTING SERVICE
FREE QUOTES, ADVICE, OAP & TRADE DISCOUNTS
WE GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND LOWER PRICES THAN ANY MAJOR SUPPLIER IN THE AREA ON ALL FENCING PANELS - ANY OTHER PRICE BEATEN BY AT LEAST 10%
WE EXTEND AN INVITATION TO VISIT OUR UNIT AND COMPARE OUR QUALITY & PRICES AGAINST ALL OTHERS
PANELS, POSTS, GRAVEL BOARDS, GATES, TRELLIS, TIMBER
★ TRADE FENCE PAINT - 4 COLOURS - 5 LTRS ONLY £7.99 ★
TEL: 01543 821213, 07886 369958 OR 07828 693442
UNIT 21, ZONE 3 BURNTWOOD BUSINESS PARK, ROBINS ROAD, BURNTWOOD WS7 3FX (REAR MORRISONS)

L. M. Sheds & Fencing
• Quality tongue & groove Sheds - treated, felted, erected
• All sizes made to order
• Concrete Posts • Gravel Boards
• Fence Panels supplied or 'supplied and fitted'
For a FREE quote call:
01922 692509
07940 302064
07833 312126

Garage Doors

HORMANN • HENDERSON • CARDALE • WESSEX • GARADOOR • HORMANN • HENDERSON

GARAGE DOOR SPECIALISTS
M.D. DOOR SERVICES OFFER
• Quality doors supplied and fitted
• Up and over, side-hinged, G.R.P., roller and sectional
• Professional service, free quotation and site survey
IS YOUR DOOR - difficult or heavy to open? • Locks, springs or cables broken? • No call out charge • Fixed low cost repairs
IF WE CAN'T FIX IT - YOU DON'T PAY
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www.mdgaragedoors.co.uk

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Gardening

IAN'S Gardening Services
General Garden Maintenance
Fencing, Slabbing, Paving Turfing and Astro Turfing
Hedges, Conifers and Trees lopped or trimmed
20 years experience
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07722 533247

Chase Tree Care
We are a locally based, family run Company established in 2007.
Simon is the owner and a fully qualified Tree Surgeon who has 19 years experience in carrying out all aspects of professional Tree Surgery.
We also carry full Public Liability Insurance to £5 million.
For a free no-obligation competitive quote from a friendly expert, call:
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or visit: www.chasetreecare.co.uk

GREENVALE LANDSCAPERS AND TREE SERVICES
Slabbing, Driveways, Patio, Fencing and Turfing also Low Maintenance Gardens e.g. Chippings and Decorative Gravel
Trees Felled, Pruned, Lopped & Topped
Hedge Trimming.
All rubbish removed
For a FREE Quote call Keith
01922 423614 or 07747 741574
20% Discount for OAP's
Fully insured, with 18 years experience

J L Garden & Tree Services
Garden Maintenance & Tree Felling

Tree Felling
Garden Maintenance
All Debris Removed
Call Jason for a No Obligation Quote
Fully Insured
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Mob: 07809 431703

L.M. Creative Gardens
• Block Paving • Slabbing • Brickwork
• Tarmacadam • Tongue & Groove Sheds • Fencing
• Turfing • Wrought Iron Gates & Fencing
For a FREE quote call:
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07940 302064
07833 312126

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Discounts for senior citizens
07973 814713 (24hr)
Evenings
(01543) 262395

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1 Call us on... 01543 465341
2 E-mail us at... sarah.winfield@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Sarah Jones, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Square, Cannock. WS11 1ES

Local Specialists

Gardening

Woodman Tree Services
Domestic & Commercial
County Council Approved
Over 30 yrs Experience
Fully insured
Qualified, all work to BS 3998 standards
* Felling * Re-shaping * Pruning
* Reduction * Hedge Trimming
* Stump Removal
24 hour Emergency Call Out
Logs and wood chip for sale
R.G. Wood ARB
Home: 01543 258108
Mobile: 07947 352960

Loft Ladders

LOFT SERVICES
- Loft Ladders supplied & fitted from £99
- New or enlarged loft access
- Loft Flooring fitted
- Loft Insulation

UPVC drop down hatch with easy stow aluminium ladder £185 fully fitted
For advice call Carl on 0121 556 1761
Mobile: 07502 103997
14 years' experience

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Motoring Accessories

P & S Spares & Repairs Ltd
(Vauxhall Specialists)
Second hand spares off the shelf
- Servicing and Mechanical Repairs
- Electronic Engine Management and Airbag Fault Diagnostic Service

WANTED
LATE VAUXHALLS: Scrap, MOT failures or accident damaged - Anything considered
VAUXHALL PARTS ALSO WANTED
Now doing Saab diognostics
Tel: 01543 370077
Mobile: 07956 911287
Unit 15, Yates's Boat Yard, Lime Lane, Pelsall, WS3 5AS

☎ 01543 257 888
admin@all-fit.co.uk
Lichfield Towbar & Trailer Centre
all-fit TOWBARS & TRAILERS
SALES HIRE SERVICE

WHERE ARE WE?
All-Fit Towbars & Trailers Ltd
Unit 13, Europa Way, Britannia Enterprise Park
Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9TZ
OPEN
Monday - Saturday 8 - 5

TOWBAR FITTING • TRAILER SALES • TRAILER HIRE • TRAILER SERVICING
ROOF BOXES • ROOF RACKS • CYCLE CARRIERS • PARKING SENSORS
NUMBER PLATES • HANDS FREE CAR KITS • VEHICLE TRACKERS
SEARCH FOR www.all-fit.co.uk

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DOOR SUPPLIERS AND FITTERS
SPECIAL OFFERS!
- 6 Panel white grained doors, supplied and fitted *£54.50* each
- 6 x 6 Panel pre-painted doors fully fitted for *£375* complete with handles
- NEW! 6x6 Panel pre-painted and plastic coated doors fully fitted only *£405!*
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- Fit only, Paint or Stain available
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PVC NOW AVAILABLE
6 Internal Panel Doors Fully Fitted £299 Standard sizes apply
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For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering
No job too small
Quality rendering and terrolining.
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Scott could save Wolves millions

Football

WOLVES' chief talent spotter Stuart Webber, who has led a transformation of the club's scouting operation, believes his academy counterpart Kieran Scott is the key component who could end up saving the club a fortune.

The process has already begun to bear fruit, with the £200,000 acquisition of Lee Evans from Newport County in January 2013 now looking a bargain with the 19-year-old having made 26 appearances last season.

Other similar-aged signings have been snapped up such as Eusbeio Bancessi, Carlo Erdei, Albert Torras and Bradley Reid last August and Kortney Hause from Wycombe in January.

"Kieran's remit is probably more important than mine, in terms of the long-term stability of the club," said Webber, who made his name as Liverpool's academy recruitment director before his appointment at Molineux via QPR in January 2013.

"Kieran has to bring in players to potentially save the club money at the top end, but also players who have come in at such an age that they're part of the club, understand the make-up of it, know the people and care for the club.

"Kieran has done a great job since he came in, as have all the scouts, including the eight part-time scouts who are the unsung heroes really, out and about every weekend and midweek.

"For us as a department probably the pinnacle in terms of what people see is who we sign for the first team. But there is a bigger picture of also filling the Under-21 group up and the 18s and the 16s.

"The ideal situation for us is we don't sign a player at first-team level, he comes up through the academy or Under-21s. That's the aim of our model.

"Whether you're the owner or a supporter there's nothing better than seeing one of your own make it and this year has been a proud year in that respect."

Webber revealed that, far from being about to hit the beaches at this time of year, Scott's department are entering their most critical period of the year.

"All the tournaments are starting now and players are out of contract from other clubs who we can start talking to," he said.

"And from our Under-21s group a lot of those lads have gone into the first-team set-up so there's a need to replace those players as well."

Webber believes the key to scouting youngsters is often something that's a rare virtue in football – patience.

"Hause was a great example of good scouting," he said. "We watched him for the first time on January 3, 2013, and signed him on January 31, 2014.

"We had a year to paint a real picture of what he is and hopefully we've signed a very good player for the future.

"Eusebio got close to playing this season which is a good achievement given he is only 18.

"I think he scored 13 goals for the Under-21s from a wide position which is excellent.

"Carlo and Albert are younger than Eusebio and next season they'll be playing in the Under21s a lot more."

Okore out to seize chance to impress

VILLA defender Jores Okore says he intends to make up for lost time next season – and prove Paul Lambert was right to buy him.

The 21-year-old, who joined from Danish side Nordsjaelland last summer, had his season cut short after just four Villa appearances when he ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament.

Okore underwent surgery and missed the remainder of a campaign which saw Villa limp home in 15th place after another worrying battle for survival.

It's left Lambert under pressure after a season which saw many of last summer's recruits fail to shine and Okore is counting down the days until he can prove his worth.

"It's about next season for me. That's my focus. I am looking forward to that. I can't wait. It can't come quick enough," he says.

"It will be the coming season when I get my big chance again to prove myself. I want to show what I can do.

"The manager has been very supportive with me. He bought me – he showed great faith in me and now I want to repay him.

"I am so determined to play well and impress."

Keeper Ikeme signs new Molineux deal

GOALKEEPER Carl Ikeme has signed a new three-year deal in a further boost to Wolves' Championship return.

Ikeme, one of the stars of last season's League One title triumph, has committed his future to the club until 2017.

The 28-year-old, whose previous deal had just one season left to run, follows hot on the heels of Richard Stearman and Dave Edwards to pledge to the Molineux cause recently.

Football

Head coach Kenny Jackett said: "It's a very exciting time for the club and Carl was a key player for us last season and I think will continue to be so.

"He's a very dedicated professional and, as a goalkeeper, is coming into his prime with his best years ahead.

"I'm very pleased a deal has been done and he's committed his future to the club."

Ikeme helped keep a club record and a third-tier all-time best 25 clean sheets during the last campaign.

He said: "I'm delighted to have agreed a new deal. Talks had taken place towards the back end of last season and then over the summer and I was happy to be back on the first day of pre-season signing the contract.

"It gives me the opportunity to concentrate on my football now.

"I've been at Wolves for a long time and now I'm very excited about what is going to happen in the future.

"I've had to go on loan in previous years to build up my experience but the long-term plan has always been to play here and I've been pleased with my performances over the last couple of years.

"Now I'm just looking to continue to work hard and improve."

Ikeme follows central defender Stearman and midfielder Edwards, who both penned two-year deals.

The 28-year-old joined Wolves from school in 2003 and has made 103 appearances for the club since making his debut in 2005, but has more than 160 career games under his belt thanks to a host of loans.

He started last campaign in red-hot form and kept his side in several games, and then returned to his best during the run-in after breaking his hand in the 1-1 draw at Tranmere on New Year's Day.

Meanwhile former Wolves manager Mick McCarthy and assistant Terry Connor signed new three-year deals at Ipswich.

McCarthy and Connor, who were appointed in November 2012, have guided the Tractor Boys to 14th and ninth in the Championship.

McCarthy, who was sacked at Molineux in February 2012 after nearly six years in the hotseat, signed a two-and-a-half-year deal when he took over at Ipswich. One of McCarthy's Wolves signings, Stephen Hunt, has penned a one-year contract to remain at Portman Road.

Simmonds finishes in fourth at international

Walsall's Paralympic swimming champion Ellie Simmonds finished fourth in the 100m breaststroke

WALSALL'S Paralympic swimming champion Ellie Simmonds finished fourth in the British Gas International at Manchester Aquatic Centre.

The 19-year-old, competing for Loughborough University, clocked one minute, 43.18 seconds and finished with 793 points behind winner Charlotte Henshaw (1.40.09, 866 pts).

Wyre Forest's Claire Cashmore finished fifth in 1.23.59 (787 points).

Wolverhampton's Ben Roberts managed a third in the Under-18s' men's 100m butterfly final.

Jackett is calling for squad to be fit

KENNY Jackett is challenging his Wolves squad to become the "fittest and hungriest" in the Championship.

The Molineux head coach welcomed the players back for the start of pre-season training last week.

And Jackett believes his players reaching the highest level of fitness is going to be the key if Wolves are to enjoy another promotion challenge in one of the most gruelling leagues of all.

"Everyone's had a good break but we're all ready now and looking forward to getting back to work to try to be one of the fittest and hungriest sides in the league," said the boss.

"We have some hard work to do, to get our heads down to make sure we're fit and prepared for the Championship.

"Every bit of advantage we can gain by using the confidence and momentum from last season we have to try to use.

"There is expectation at every club and nobody here is frightened of the potential of the club.

"But equally we know we have to roll our sleeves up and earn every point we get.

"We're delighted to be back and we're looking forward very much to the season after promotion."

Back Irvine Bomber tells fans

ALBION legend Tony Brown has sent a rallying call for the club to back new boss Alan Irvine with more signings like Joleon Lescott.

Brown called on fans to put aside their doubts – and on the club to give Irvine the players to help him succeed.

Fans reacted with fury when the Baggies chose the former Preston and Sheffield Wednesday boss as Pepe Mel's successor.

But 'Bomber' Brown, the club's record goalscorer and appearance-maker, said: "Supporters are not there to pick the manager. The club has picked him and he's taken a lot of stick but it's not his fault he's been given the job.

"We've just got to get behind him as a club.

"You don't want disharmony between the supporters and the club because it's a distraction and it gets you nowhere. Like I've said to every manager that has come in they will live and die by results."

Division is very even, says boss

KENNY JACKETT has tipped fellow promoted sides Rotherham and Brentford to be surprise challengers next season as he predicted an "open" Championship.

The Millers, who went up through the play-offs, have added six new faces already this summer and hope to sign three more, with Scott Loach, Mat Sadler, Kirk Broadfoot, Matt Derbyshire, Wolves target Conor Newton and record signing from Villa Jordan Bowery recruited.

Brentford have snapped up former Real Madrid midfielder Marcos Tebar Ramiro and winger Alan Judge and expect more activity.

Wolves boss Jackett said: "Quite early on we go to Rotherham and they'll surprise a few people. That will be a tough place to go. There are strong sides coming down while I also think Rotherham and Brentford coming up can surprise people. I think it will be a very even division."

Naylor signs up for Derby

FORMER Wolves left-back Lee Naylor has just signed a one-year contract to play at Derby.

The 34-year-old had joined the club on a short-term deal in February but how now made it more permanent.

Bloxwich-born Naylor made four substitute appearances for the Rams but didn't figure in the Championship play-off games, culminating in their Wembley final defeat to QPR.

Naylor joined the Rams after 13 games for League Two Accrington Stanley last September but had been without a club for 14 months beforehand.

Troubled Brummies suffer a thrashing

A BRAVE effort from the depleted Selco Brummies could not prevent a 60-32 defeat against star-studded Poole at Wimborne Road.

With Bartosz Zmarzlik and Daniel Nermark both missing plus owner Alan Phillips stepping away from the club earlier in the day, Birmingham travelled down to Dorset under far from ideal circumstances.

BSPA vice chairman Jon Cook met with riders before the meeting to assure them their wages for the next two meetings would be covered by the sports' governing body to keep the club going whilst in takeover talks.

And the Perry Barr outfit responded with a gutsy display before eventually being outclassed by a strong Pirates side.

British duo Danny King and Ben Barker led the visitors with typically determined showings, whilst Paul Starke and Simon Lambert also fought hard for solid contributions and provided the Brummies' only 5-1 in heat two.

Guesting Josh Auty and Nico Covatti put in battling displays albeit for little reward with the Pirates in inspired form, and with rider replacement returning just one point at No.1 the visitors simply lacked the necessary firepower against a powerhouse Poole side.

Despite being unable to add to their Elite League points tally, team boss Jack Lee was proud of his side for their efforts - and he says their attentions now turn to Monday's trip to Belle Vue.

He said: "To come down to Poole without a No.1 and with them at full strength was always going to be a difficult task.

"The lads tried their best under the circumstances we were in, and to get 32 points wasn't a bad effort really. There was some good racing and the boys made some good starts but the Poole boys were brilliant and were really dialled in with the setups. Hopefully everything will be sorted out as soon as possible and we can get back to something like normal. For the time being we are all systems go and just concentrating on trying to put in a good performance on Monday at Belle Vue."

Poole 60: Maciej Janowski 15, Vaclav Milik 11+1, Przemyslaw Pawlicki 9+3, Josh Grajczonek 9, Kyle Newman 8+3, Darcy Ward 7+2, Ben Hopwood 1.

Birmingham 32: Ben Barker 8, Danny King 7+2, Simon Lambert 6+1, Josh Auty 5, Paul Starke 3+2, Nicolas Covatti 3+1, Bartosz Zmarzlik R/R. Elite League points: Poole 3 Birmingham 0.

Meanwhile speedway bosses have stepped in to cover the wages of Birmingham riders as owner Alan Phillips looks to sell up.

The Brummies have been successful on track after moving up to the Elite League in 2011, topping the table last year before losing to Poole in the play-off final.

But crowd figures have been poor and Phillips said bluntly: "Speedway is not sustainable at Perry Barr on current attendances."

Jon Cook, vice-chairman of promoters association the BSPA, told riders before the thrashing at Poole that the organisation would cover their wages for the next two meetings while takeover talks go on.

Herd out to revive career

CHRIS HERD is back in training and ready to revive his stalled career at Villa Park.

The 25-year-old utility player has been unavailable "indefinitely" owing to unspecified personal reasons since March.

The difficulties cost Herd a possible place in Australia's World Cup campaign but his father Willie has confirmed his son is back at Bodymoor Heath and preparing for the new season. "He obviously had an issue with the club last year but that has been sorted and he is looking forward," said Herd Snr, adding he must make up for lost time.

Lambert turns to Bent sale for funds

VILLA manager Paul Lambert is hoping the unexpected sale of Darren Bent could boost a transfer kitty frozen by owner Randy Lerner.

Bent has a year remaining on his Villa deal and is due back at the club after spending last season on loan at Fulham. But Turkish clubs Trabzonspor and Fenerbahce are both on the trail of the 30-year-old former England striker, which could give Villa a last-ditch pay-back in the club's most expensive outlay of the Premier League age.

Lambert needs every penny he can muster this summer, with Lerner restricting spending as he tries to sell the club.

As little as £10m is said to have been made available to the manager, which left the club unable to compete for the signature of Albion's major signing of the summer so far, Joleon Lescott.

Joe Cole admitted he took a huge cut in his salary to join Villa. Defender Phillipe Senderos is another modest recruit. Lambert has also abandoned any hopes of pursuing previous targets Lewis Holtby and Javier Hernandez.

Bent, who signed from Sunderland for £18m in 2011, may prefer a move away from Villa having endured a frosty relationship with Lambert.

Coaches hunt to take weeks

WOLVES are still weeks away from appointing new coaches – as it emerged they want the same coaching style through the club.

Head of football development Kevin Thelwell and academy manager Gareth Prosser have drawn up a shortlist to replace Under-21s coach Steve Weaver and Under-18s coach Mick Halsall.

Head coach Kenny Jackett, who is taking up to 50 senior professionals in training with assistant Joe Gallen and youth coach Sean Parrish, believes Wolves are still some way off announcing replacements. But the desire for a 'through line' of approach from Jackett downwards could have been a factor in the departures of Weaver and Halsall.

"It's going to be weeks rather than days, I'd think," said Jackett.

Parra will not replace Sako, says Jackett

Football

KENNY JACKETT says Wolves new boy Rajiv Van La Parra will challenge rather than replace Bakary Sako – as he set the latter a double figures goals target.

The Molineux head coach is relishing working with Sako again while indicating snapping up long-term target Van La Parra was too good an opportunity to turn down.

Asked if the flying Dutchman was signed as a replacement for Sako, who is expected to attract interest again this summer, Jackett said: "No that's not the case – we don't think so.

"We tracked Van La Parra for while and we think with him being out of contract it was too good an opportunity not to take him.

"It leaves us with four good wide players, and in terms of scoring and creating goals, that's quite exciting.

"They're different types – Van La Parra has a lot of pace, Sako's game is about pace and power, and perhaps James Henry and Michael Jacobs have more football in them, certainly coming inside there's a lot of perception in their play. So there's a good balance between the four of them and I'm very excited about our wide options – they're very good."

Sako was Wolves' joint top scorer with 13 goals last season after hitting nine in his maiden English campaign in the Championship in 2012-13, and Jackett believes he can hit double figures again.

"Sako got nine goals in his first year in the Championship and that's where he's looking – nine goals plus," he said.

"He has a lot of power, particularly in his left foot and I want to get Sako into shooting positions as much as we possibly can.

"There's been no interest in Sako, but as July and August builds up, we'll see. I'm sure that will be the case right around the country.

"Personally I was very pleased he stayed and he did well and I think he's happy here. I don't think he's unhappy.

"He's been very genuine and honest with what he wants to do. I'm looking forward to working with him again. He's done very well and long may it continue."

Meanwhile, another winger, Anthony Forde, has been linked with a move to relegated League One club Stevenage.

TAYLOR IS STILL IN TALKS WITH SMITH

WALSALL'S players today returned for pre-season training as negotiations continued with left-back Andy Taylor.

The 28-year-old is the only out-of-contract Saddlers star whose future is yet to be decided.

Taylor's contract with the club officially expired on Monday but he remains in talks with boss Dean Smith over a fresh one.

Football

Securing the former Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield United star on new terms would be a major fillip for the Saddlers boss with a significant squad rebuild still on the cards ahead of the opening League One clash at Port Vale on August 9.

Indeed, the squad which gathered at the club's Essington training ground this week was missing some familiar faces from last year following the summer exits of captain Andy Butler and several others.

Departures

But player-coach Dean Holden does not believe the team spirit which has epitomised Smith's three-and-half year reign will be put at risk by the departures.

"Lads move on and in football you have to move quickly and not think about the past," he said.

"Before you know it pre-season comes around and you are bonding with another group of players. It's excitement.

"When you come in to pre-season it's a long way to go. You are bonding, making friends with people going into pre-season games and having a few nights out together.

"You build a really good spirit and we had that last year. We proved last year what we are capable of with some of the performances and some of the football we played."

While Smith opted to let several players, including top scorer Craig Westcarr, depart at the end of the last campaign, the manager has tied down the likes of experienced defensive pair Ben Purkiss and James Chambers on new deals.

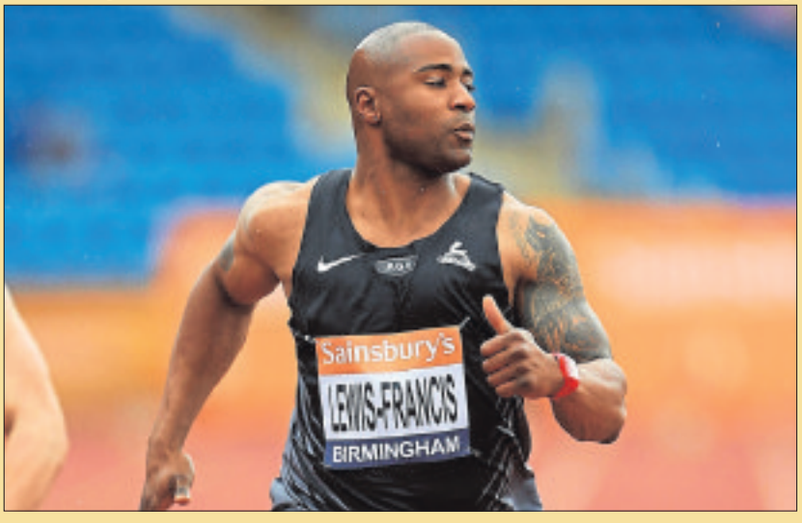
And he has already made forays into the market, signing defender James O'Connor, forward Tom Bradshaw and young goalkeeper Craig MacGillivray.

"It will be a completely different dressing room," added Holden. "The lads who were here last year and have left deserve a lot of credit – the likes of Butler – they all played their part."

"At the end of the season we were all disappointed as a group. We got together and we had a chat. A lot of lads have left now so that has been and gone.

"To me there is a sense of excitement, there is always that buzz."

Massey is champion as Dart drops from qualifying



Darlaston Dart, Mark Lewis-Francis in action but failed to qualify during the meeting

MIDLANDS athlete Kelly Massey has become a British champion – as Mark Lewis-Francis failed to make the 100m final.

Massey, the 19-year-old Sale Harrier from Wheaton Aston, won the women's 400 metres in a time of 52.42 seconds.

She held off Shana Cox to clinch her maiden triumph in the event at the Alexander Stadium.

Victory means Massey, who has been selected for England at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games this summer, has nailed down her place for the European Championships in Zurich in August.

Massey, who was fourth in last year in 52.44 secs, qualified for the final after winning her heat in a time of 52.86 secs.

Birchfield's 'Darlaston Dart', who is 31, finished third in his semi and so failed to qualify for the 100m final.

Lewis-Francis at least has the consolation of a place in the relay squad in Glasgow. But after finishing second in his heat, he needed to be in the top two in the semi-final. "My goal was the final," he said. "There was a lot of talent out there this year – we've got some really good runners around now."

Birchfield athlete Sophie Cook, from Oldbury ,finished fourth in the women's pole vault, with 3.95m.

Jones gets Hamilton in first round

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Wayne Jones has been drawn against Andy Hamilton in the World Matchplay first round.

Jones, a 500-1 outsider for the tournament with sponsors BetVictor, will take on the number eight seed at Blackpool's Winter Gardens this month.

The 49-year-old, nicknamed the Wanderer, reached the quarter-finals of the event in 2010.

Reigning champion Phil Taylor will once again be the man to beat as he bids for his 15th World Matchplay title.

Taylor is unbeaten in Blackpool since 2007 after winning a record six successive titles and takes on qualifier Darren Webster in the first round.

"I know Darren really well and it will be a tough game," said Taylor.

"I've got three weeks until the tournament now and I'll be putting in a lot of hard work, because I know I need to.

"I've got to improve my game if I'm going to keep this title because it's such a strong field this year, and if you're not at your best you'll be going home."

Squad will be a threat, says Mick

MICK McCarthy greeted Wolves' return to the Championship by tipping his old club to be a "threat" next season.

The former Molineux boss believes the momentum from last season'sLeague One title success will stand Kenny Jackett's side in good stead as they prepare for a return to the second tier.

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